

Most Israelis favour Lebanon pullout

TEL AVIV (R) — A national poll published Friday showed that 39.5 per cent of those questioned favour an immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Only 14 per cent said they wanted the troops to stay in Lebanon according to the poll carried out for the independent newspaper Haaretz by the Public Opinion Research Institute. A further 18.5 per cent support a withdrawal on condition the Syrians also leave Lebanon. Another 15.1 per cent only want Israeli forces to pull back to a line further south than the one they now hold near the port of Sidon. The growing rate of casualties has resulted in an ever increasing number of demands by parliamentarians and public committees for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Lebanon.

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Israel orders partial closure of Bir Zeit

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities in the West Bank Thursday ordered the immediate partial closure of the Palestinian Bir Zeit University for three months because of an anti-Israeli demonstration by students on Tuesday. Last Tuesday, some 400 students demonstrated outside the old campus of the university in the centre of Bir Zeit, shouting anti-Israeli slogans and throwing stones at passing vehicles and staged a sit-in protest against an attempt to sabotage Al Aqsa Mosque last Friday.

Israeli patrol attacked in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Commandos fired two rocket-propelled grenades at an Israeli position in Sidon Friday, damaging an armoured personnel carrier, eyewitnesses said. They said the Israelis opened automatic gunfire in all directions, damaging six cars parked near the customs department, but the commandos escaped.

Bomb threat closes AUB

BEIRUT (R) — The American University of Beirut (AUB) suspended classes for one day Friday after receiving a threat of a bomb attack, a spokesman said. University sources said the temporary closure was also due to continuing clashes in the southern suburbs.

Israel to hold army call-up exercise

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will hold a public mobilisation exercise soon involving several thousand reservists and vehicles, the army announced Thursday. Israel held a similar exercise last November at a time of military tension with Syria. Military sources said that exercise was one of the largest held for several years.

Andreotti to meet Qadhafi in Tripoli

ROME (R) — Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti will go to Libya Sunday for talks aimed at improving the often chilly relations between the two countries, a Foreign Ministry source said here Friday. During his two-day stay in Tripoli he will meet Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi for talks officially described as covering a wide variety of topics with no particular agenda.

Bourguiba lifts state of emergency

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba Friday lifted a nationwide state of emergency he imposed a month ago during a wave of bloody "bread riots". The Tunisian news agency TAP reported. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said the move marked a second stage in the return to normal policing methods after the army was called in on Jan. 3 to quell rioting sparked by near year increases in the price of bread. Mr. Bourguiba last week lifted the night curfew and called the army off the streets.

INSIDE

- Heseltine says MNF members will not take unilateral decisions, page 2
- Hassan, Australian minister discuss Mideast situation, page 3
- Thaw seen in British-Soviet relations after 60 years, page 4
- Human rights and world organisations, page 5
- Toyota bags top place in Jordan National Rally, page 6
- Kohl, Mitterrand fail to solve European Community problems, page 7
- Chad rebel delegation arrives in Paris, page 8

Army claims victory in fierce Beirut fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese army claimed victory Friday in a battle with militiamen that shook Beirut with some of the heaviest fighting since last September's "mountain war."

Thunderous tank, rocket and artillery barrages kept residents awake through the night. The fighting that began Thursday raged for 17 hours and continued Friday morning.

Sporadic clashes and shelling duels persisted into the afternoon, but a local ceasefire at 9 a.m. (11700 GMT) appeared to mark the completion of the army's push to regain four positions in the Shi'ite southern suburbs.

An army spokesman said the positions, overrun Thursday by the Amal (hope) militia, were retaken between 4 and 5 a.m.

Amal denied that the army had recaptured the posts, which included the gutted Maronite church of St. Michael, but well-informed sources said armoured units had done it after a tough fight and had gone on to take two other Amal outposts nearby.

U.S. Marines serving with the Multi-National Force (MNF) went on "condition one," their highest alert, and scammed into bunkers when two rockets crashed near their base at Beirut airport shortly after midday. Marine spokesman Maj. Denis Brooks said.

The rockets landed near hangars of Trans-Mediterranean Airways at the northeast corner of the airport. Maj. Brooks said. "They exploded, but nothing else happened. Nobody did anything," he said.

Geneva talks impossible, says Junblatt

ROME (R) — Lebanese opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt was quoted Friday as saying it was impossible to resume the Geneva talks on reconciliation between the rival factions fighting in Lebanon.

"A reconvening of the Geneva conference is impossible," he told the Rome daily La Repubblica in a Damascus interview.

Mr. Junblatt said that when the talks adjourned in November Lebanese President Amin Gemayel "was entrusted with a precise mission: to obtain the cancellation of the agreement with Israel" for withdrawal of its invasion forces from Lebanon.

"But what did Gemayel do? Nothing. He went back to using force and the cannons of the New Jersey," Mr. Junblatt said.

Gunmen kill 3 foreign oilmen in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Three foreign oilmen were killed Friday by gunmen who attacked their accommodation barge in southern Sudan, the U.S. Chevron Oil Company reported.

A company spokesman said the attackers left a note saying they belonged to the "Anyanya-two" secessionist group. Sudanese Vice-President Omer Mohamed Al Tayeb said the attackers came from Ethiopia.

Officials said an assurance of military protection was given by General Tayeb, who doubles as state security chief, at a meeting Friday with the managing director of Chevron.

A Chevron spokesman told reporters a group of 15 to 20 heavily armed gunmen raided the living quarters of company employees at Rub Kona camp, near the town of Bentiu, in the early hours of Thursday. Bentiu, 760 kilometres south of Khartoum, is the location of Chevron's main base camp for oilfields from which the company hopes to export oil through a pipeline to the Red Sea in 1986.

He said three oil employees — a Briton, a Filipino and a Kenyan — were killed and seven others, including two Britons, injured.

frontation for which the opposition had accused President Amin Gemayel of massing troops. It was sparked by arrests made by the army in the southern suburbs and by the discovery in west Beirut of an eight-ton Shi'ite cache of ammunition, automatic weapons, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, the sources reported.

They said Amal, which accused the army of sniping at its positions, responded at noon Thursday by taking to the streets and overrunning the army posts near the green line dividing east Beirut from west.

The army offensive, which began four hours later under heavy PSP shelling, took considerable time partly because of the difficulty of manoeuvring tanks in the streets.

The sources said militia strongpoints in surrounding high-rise buildings were methodically destroyed. The army, which also used 155-mm howitzers, took out militia positions floor by floor and room by room.

Beirut residents several kilometres away said their buildings shook with the intensity of the army barrages and PSP artillery fire aimed at the troops.

The sources said the battle showed that the army, which is being rapidly modernised with American and French help, could hold its positions against opposition militias.

In a bid to calm opposition fears of a full-scale showdown in the southern suburbs, the army said later it would not push on to storm the area and clean out the Shi'ite militia.

He was referring to the U.S. battleship which has bombarded the predominantly PSP positions thought to be firing on U.S. Marines stationed in Beirut.

Mr. Junblatt, who leads the opposition National Salvation Front, said his plan for peace in Lebanon involved the creation of a senate and election of a parliament under a new electoral law ensuring that all Lebanese are genuinely represented.

"But, as things stand, I do not see how we can bring this peace plan to the negotiating table," the PSP leader said.

Mr. Junblatt called for the unconditional withdrawal of the entire Multi-National Force (MNF) in Beirut, consisting of U.S., French, Italian and British troops.

He said it appeared to be there "only to protect an unpopular regime, the Gemayel family and the Falangist Party."

"At this point all the detachments, including the Italians, are taking a big risk," Mr. Junblatt warned.

Asked if he would accept Italian participation in a neutral United Nations peace force, he replied: "This is a civil war. It's a war between Lebanese. It's a war between the popular opposition and the dictatorship of the Falangists."

"What are we going to do with neutral observers? The West must keep out. It has nothing to do with this tragedy of ours."

Mr. Junblatt dismissed reports of possible suicide air attacks against ships of the MNF off Lebanon as "totally invented nonsense" aimed at justifying attacks against Lebanese opposition militias.

criminal law was not being applied fully to the settlers, thus allowing them to use almost unlimited violence against West Bank Palestinians.

The report was completed about a year later, but has remained unpublished.

Yedioth said the Karp report condemned army interference in a number of police investigations, in which the police said they had evidence to prosecute Jewish settlers for several crimes. Senior army officers gave "instructions" to stop the investigations and close files.

It quoted one senior police officer as saying that the army had taken over some of the investigations from the police.



Militiamen run for cover Friday as the latest round of heavy fighting between the Lebanese army and opposition entered its second day (AP wirephoto)

Top-level S.Korean delegation in Amman

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A South Korean parliamentary delegation, headed by National Assembly Speaker Chae Mun Shick, arrived here Friday for a four-day visit to Jordan to hold talks with Jordanian officials on ways to strengthen bilateral relations and to discuss the latest developments in the area. The official talks are scheduled to start Saturday.

During its visit here, the parliamentary delegation is expected to hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez and other Jordanian officials.

The purpose of the delegation's visit is to strengthen friendly relations that already exist between the two countries. South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jai Sung Kim said Friday.

The restoration of the Jordanian Parliament and the return to parliamentary life is to be considered "a new chapter in the Jordanian history," Mr. Kim said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kim said the delegation, which includes the highest-ranked official to ever visit Jordan since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and South Korea

Democrats postpone vote on Marine withdrawal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats on the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee postponed a vote Friday on a resolution calling for prompt withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon to allow more time for negotiations with Republicans.

The full committee had been scheduled to vote on the measure Friday but Democratic members agreed at a caucus Thursday night to delay action until next Tuesday.

The decision came shortly after Lawrence Eagleburger, the under-secretary of state for political affairs, told the panel that adoption of the resolution would "certainly make it very likely" that the Lebanese government would collapse.

White House sceptical of Saudi call for Lebanon withdrawal; 'U.S. will not allow Syrian political domination of Lebanon,' says Eagleburger, page 2

Challenger blasts off into space on fourth flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — The space shuttle Challenger blasted off Friday on its fourth space voyage, during which two men will use rocket backpacks to "fly" in space.

Challenger lifted off Launch Pad 39 at precisely 8 a.m. (1300 GMT) after what officials called "the smoothest ever" countdown.

With Vance Brand in command, Challenger darted into partly cloudy skies and twisted over the Atlantic Ocean on a southeasterly heading, its trail of fire and

Iraq to boost People's Army

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's paramilitary People's Army will grow by 90,000 this year to 650,000 men, its commander-in-chief Taha Yassin Ramadan was Friday quoted as saying. In an interview with the monthly magazine Hurra Al Waran, Mr. Ramadan, who is first deputy prime minister, said the force included more than 100,000 non-Iraqi Arab volunteers, most of them Egyptians. He said 100,000 men of the People's Army which supports the million-strong regular army, were permanently stationed on the 180-kilometre border with Iran, with which Iraq has been at war since September 1980. Over 30,000 of them saw action during Iraq's northern offensive last year, he added.

Iraq to hit selected Iranian targets, page 2

King leaves U.K. for U.S.

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein left London Friday for the United States where he will have treatment for a stomach ulcer. Reuters quoted the Jordanian embassy as saying Friday.

The King, currently at the centre of efforts to find a Middle East settlement, arrived in Britain Wednesday on a private visit. An embassy spokesman said the King would have a routine medical check at a special centre in Cleveland, Ohio.

The King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, left Amman Wednesday.

Government wins House confidence

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Thursday won a majority vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament for his government's policies which include enhancing democratic life in Jordan and resuming talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reach joint political moves in efforts for a solution to the Palestinian question.

The government secured 45 votes in its favour out of 47 members who attended Thursday's session of the Lower House. The two members who voted against the confidence motion were Youssef Al Adem and Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh, representatives of the East Bank constituencies of Ma'an and Karak respectively.

Both Mr. Adem and Mr. Tarawneh were highly critical of past governmental practices in certain fields but did not attack the new government's policies announced Monday in a policy statement by Prime Minister 'Obeidat.

According to the Jordanian Constitution "if the majority of Lower House of Parliament members withhold confidence in government the government has to resign".

Parliament had once withheld its confidence in the government of Mr. Samir Al Rifai (1963) and the Parliament was dissolved soon afterwards.

Thursday's vote was the first of its kind since the suspension of parliament in 1974.

Almost all of the 24 members who spoke during a seven-hour debate on the new cabinet's policies expressed strong support for the government's objectives, especially on issues like strengthening the army, enhancing democratic practices in Jordan, and co-ordination with the PLO and other Arab countries to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

The members also stressed unity between the West and the East Banks, called for more Arab financial support, for the people in the occupied territories, and urged a speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war and a quick solution to the Lebanese problem.

Representative Adem, who withheld confidence in the government, called for the cancellation of martial law and laws. Martial law was enacted in Jordan in 1967 following the war with Israel.

Mr. Adem said that conditions which compelled the imposition of martial law in 1967 do not exist any more, and therefore the government should lift it now. The call was strongly endorsed by Mr. Abdul Baqi Jammo, a Muslim clergyman, who represents Amman. Mr. Jammo said there is no need for martial courts. "It is unjust to issue sentences that cannot be appealed against or challenged," he said. "Nobody has the right to put people in jail without giving them the chance to appear in court," he added.

Mr. 'Obeidat, however, emphasised in his reply that "there is no encroachment upon the rights of citizens by the judicial system" and announced that the government will not lift the martial law or abolish military courts at present. He said that although sentences handed down by military courts cannot be appealed against, there are other legal guarantees that ensure the rights of the citizens.

"Although the verdicts of military courts are not referred to a higher appeal court, they do offer guarantees for carrying out justice," he said.

Mr. 'Obeidat explained that verdicts by military courts were normally referred to the legal council at the Army Headquarters and then presented to the prime minister or to the minister of justice for review. He also said the government intends to set up a military appeals court.

In a reply for a call for the release of political prisoners, made by Mr. Khamis, Mr. 'Obeidat revealed that there have been similar requests for a general amnesty. He

He called on the government to be tolerant of "constructive criticism" and to allow "democratic

dialogue" and not to "impede the democratic process." He said that the Parliament will, in its turn, be co-operative with the government to uphold democratic values of the country.

Judicial issues

Mr. Batayneh called for more independence for the judicial system and restraints on extraordinary laws. He suggested that the government should allow questioning of laws and stressed the necessity of separating the work of the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities.

"Parliamentary life is one of the achievements of our people and was not granted to them," Mr. Batayneh said, "and nobody has the right to tamper with it."

"Anybody who encroaches on parliamentary life is actually encroaching on the will of the people," he said.

"Our people will not forgive anybody who encroaches on their democratic achievements."

"We (the government and the assembly) shall work together to enhance democracy," he added.

Mr. 'Obeidat pledged that the government will not impede the democratic process, and said the government will be tolerant of any observation related to the implementation of government policies.

Several representatives also stressed that democracy should include the freedom of the press.

Mr. Khamis said that many of the Jordanian students who study in the socialist countries face harsh measures upon their return to Jordan.

These measures include suspension of their passports. Mr. Khamis said and urged the government to abolish such measures.

Martial law

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(Continued on page 3)

White House sceptical about Saudi request for U.S. troop pullout

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House voiced scepticism Thursday about a report that Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz had called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Lebanon.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the prince as saying the 1,600 U.S. Marines serving with the Multinational Force should leave, along with all Israeli troops.

"There is not the least doubt that Syrian forces will pull out after that," he was quoted as saying at a meeting with American businessmen last weekend.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes at first refused to comment on the report but then said: "I'll bet when it all comes out, the full context won't be quite that startling."

Any Saudi call for the Marines' unconditional withdrawal would disturb the Reagan administration which relies heavily on the Saudi government in Middle East peace diplomacy.

President Reagan says the presence of the Marines is a vital factor in attempts to end factional fighting in Lebanon.

Asked about the prince's reported remarks, Secretary of State George Shultz said in Caracas Thursday: "The United States is there at the express and urgent invitation of the government of Lebanon and it stays there at the urgent request of the government of Lebanon."

He said the United States had had many conversations with all the countries in the region, including the heads of government in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and others, "and the uniform advice we get is that we should stay there."

Mr. Shultz, in Caracas to attend the inauguration of new Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, initially responded to a question about the prince's reported comments by saying: "I don't know what you're talking about."

He said the United States had no intention of staying in Lebanon forever and repeated that the U.S. goal was a stable and peaceful Lebanon, a goal he said was shared with the Saudi government.

Mr. Shultz said Israel had agreed last May to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and what was needed now was a Syrian withdrawal, as requested by the Lebanese government.

House supports pullout

A toughly-worded resolution urging a prompt and orderly withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon won broad support from Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives at a closed meeting Wednesday, their leaders said.

Opposition Democratic leaders, whose party controls the chamber, tentatively plan to seek a full house vote on the resolution next week.

It passed by the house, it faces almost certain defeat in the Republican-controlled Senate. In any case, it is non-binding and does not require President Reagan's signature.

"I'm not even going to pay any attention to it," Mr. Reagan said earlier Wednesday.

But key Democrats said such action could push Congress into taking stronger measures such as cutting off funds for keeping the 1,600 Marines in Beirut as part of a four-nation force with British, French and Italian troops.

The resolution, if adopted, would be politically damaging for Mr. Reagan at the start of his re-election campaign.

The proposed resolution does not set a specific deadline for withdrawal as many critics of Mr. Reagan's Lebanon policy wanted.

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, a Massachusetts Democrat, told reporters he feared a specific date could endanger the lives of the Marines.

"The policy of the president has failed. We feel the time has come for him to remove our brave U.S. Marines from being in the trenches and from being in the bunkers," Mr. O'Neill said.

The seven-page Democratic resolution concludes that Lebanon is important to U.S. interests in the Middle East and that Mr. Reagan has been unable to present a convincing rationale for continued participation by U.S. troops in the Multinational Force. It says the situation in Lebanon is "drifting out of control."

The Reagan administration had failed to impress on the government of Lebanon an urgent need for development of a viable reconciliation plan and had allowed the situation there to dominate the U.S. agenda in the Middle East, according to the resolution.

The White House accused Democrats of playing election-year politics with the issue and said this would encourage Syria to resist peace efforts.

In strong language, which he

said was approved by Mr. Reagan, White House Spokesman Larry Speakes called on House Democrats to kill the resolution.

He said the White House was concerned it would encourage intransigence on the part of the Syrians and thereby undermine attempts to negotiate peace.

"Talk that indicates to the Syrians and to others who are bent on a destructive route in the Middle East, talk in this nation that we don't have a solid commitment on the part of the president and Congress only aids and abets these people."

Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which Wednesday began debating the resolution, also attacked it.

"This is a ridiculous political document filled with nebulous facts... every paragraph is filled with something I'd hear at an anti-Reagan rally," said Mr. Mark Siliander of Michigan.

S. Araby calls for pullout

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday called on the United States to withdraw its force from Lebanon and pressure Israel to pull its forces out of the east Mediterranean country, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Prince Abdullah made his statement during a meeting with a group of U.S. businessmen visiting here.

"I cannot understand the role played by the American Marines in Lebanon," Prince Abdullah told the businessmen. "Why does a superpower such as the United States send its fleet and 2,000 of its troops to Lebanon?"

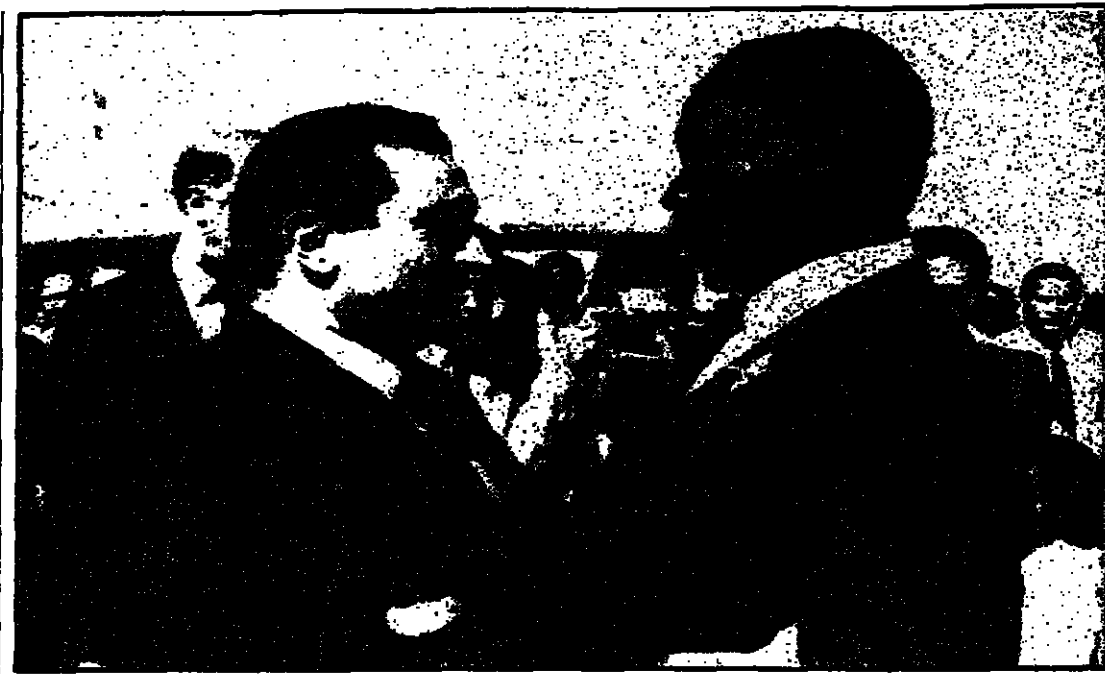
He said that if the U.S. intervened they stand to gain resentment from all... and if they fail (in Lebanon) the U.S. influence would be shaken."

U.S. will not hand Syria political domination of Lebanon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger says that the United States "will not hand Syria political domination of Lebanon on a silver platter."

In a Jan. 31 speech to the National Council of Jewish Women, Mr. Eagleburger said: "If the Syrians think they can smugly sit by and wait for internal pressures or the 'Vietnam Syndrome' to force the withdrawal of the American presence, as they have suggested to us and to others, they are wrong."

Mr. Eagleburger said that the United States, France, Italy and Britain have committed "significant resources" by participating in the Multinational Force (MNF) in Lebanon to help bring peace to that strife-torn country.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is greeted on arrival at Nairobi Thursday by Kenyan President

Daniel Arap Moi at the start of a four-day official visit to Kenya (AP wirephoto).

Egyptian president arrives in Kenya

NAIROBI (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Kenya Thursday for two days of talks expected to concentrate on African political problems, the Middle East and Afro-Arab cooperation.

Mr. Mubarak who is on a four-nation tour of Africa, arrived from Zaire and was met at Jomo Kenyatta Airport by President Daniel Arap Moi and senior cabinet ministers.

Egypt's ambassador to Kenya, Ahmad Haggag, said Wednesday night that he expected Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Moi to discuss African problems prior to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Guinea in May or June this year.

In particular the two leaders would discuss the civil war in Chad and the protracted dispute over the Moroccan-ruled Western Sahara, he said.

During his three-day stay in Kinshasa, Mr. Mubarak had several rounds of talks with Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, focussing mainly on the situation in Chad.

Egypt, like Kenya, wants a negotiated end to the war in the Western Sahara between the Polisario Independence Movement and the Moroccan administrators.

The two countries have enjoyed close relations since the 1960's when Cairo was host to several African independence movements during the time when most of the continent was under colonial rule.

Both are in the conservative camp of the OAU, which is alarmed at the activities of the so-called progressive states, particularly the policies of Libya.

Mr. Mubarak's tour — he will also visit Somalia and Tanzania — is seen by diplomats as an attempt to re-assert Egypt's role in African affairs and to counter Libyan influence.

He will have a second round of talks with Mr. Moi on Saturday before leaving for Somalia, which shares Egypt's concern about Libyan policies. On Sunday he flies to Tanzania.

Mr. Moi, in remarks prepared for Thursday night's banquet, said the whole world was interested in

a settlement of the Middle East problem and added that Kenya appreciated the efforts that Egypt was making towards a lasting solution.

He said both Egypt and Kenya were concerned about the hostilities between some OAU member states.

Sudan, which has a military alliance with Cairo, has accused Marxist Ethiopia of being involved in secessionist violence in southern Sudan, a charge denied by Ethiopia.

This week Somalia said Ethiopian aircraft bombed the border town of Borama, killing more than 60 people and wounding more than 150.

Mr. Moi said both states were worried at the slow pace of talks to bring independence to Namibia (South West Africa) and noted that South Africa said this week it would disengage its forces from Angola.

"But this does not alter the fact that the presence of South African forces in Angola is and will continue to be an act of provocation," the Kenyan president added.

Heseltine says Lebanon force members will not act independently

KUWAIT (R) — British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said Thursday the four countries contributing troops to the Multinational Force in Beirut would not withdraw their national contingents from Lebanon independently.

Mr. Heseltine, winding up a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, told a news conference the force had contributed to its goal of creating "an atmosphere of peace."

Asked if the British contingent of more than 100 men would remain in Lebanon if the U.S. forces pulled out, Mr. Heseltine said: "I don't think we would see a situation where the members of the Multinational Force would act independently of each other."

"What we very much hope is that the means could be found by negotiation to secure the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces and allow the Gemayel government to widen its political base," he said.

He envisaged replacement of the force, which also includes troops from France and Italy, by "a United Nations force or whatever is appropriate."

Asked if a new European initiative could be expected over Lebanon, he said without elaboration: "The initiative will come within the dialogue of the Multi-National Force (MNF)."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who has been in the forefront of efforts to end the factional strife in Lebanon, is due to meet French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris on Saturday.

Mr. Heseltine said Britain remained ready to support mediation efforts to stop the 40-month-old war between Iran and Iraq.

"We are very concerned to maintain the international freedom of shipping rights in the seas," he said, but he would not be drawn on the question of British action to secure freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

He said the 100 or so British soldiers and airmen on secondment to Kuwait were here to help in training and maintenance of British-made equipment.

"We have not seen our people here as having an aggressive role in any circumstances," he said.

He said no specific arms deals had been discussed either here or in Saudi Arabia, which announced last month a four billion dollar air defence equipment deal with France.

Kuwait agreed to buy Hawk trainer jets from Britain last year and is a potential market for British Challenger tanks and armoured vehicles, British officials have said.

Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said Mr. Heseltine left Riyadh that Britain had offered to sell Saudi Arabia "all the weapons it has," but declined to be specific about what his country might want.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	
17:30 Main Channel	Koran
17:40 Children's Program	Cartoons
18:05 The Family	Programme
18:30 Local Programme	Review
19:30 News in Arabic	Arabic Series
20:00 Arabie Series	Arabic Play
21:25 Local Programme	Arabic Play
22:00 News in Arabic	Arabic Play
23:00 Play Continued	Arabic Play
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00 French Programme	News in French
19:00 News in French	News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew	M.A.S.H.
20:30 Portrait of power	Portrait of power
21:00 Saturday Variety Show	News in English
22:00 Feature Film: The Thomas Crown Affair	Sieve McCue, Paul Burke
22:15	
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM 5.00 MHz. FM	partly on 95.00 KHz. SW
07:00 Morning Show	Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk	Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk
08:30 Morning Show	Newsdesk
09:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk
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19:30 Morning Show	Newsdesk
20:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk
20:30 Morning Show	Newsdesk
21:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk
21:30 Morning Show	Newsdesk
22:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk
22:30 Morning Show	Newsdesk
23:00 Morning Show	Newsdesk

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
EXHIBITIONS	
"Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.	
"Pablo Picasso" paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.	
FILM	
"Le Sauvage" programme at French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661067	
American Centre - 44371	
British Council - 36147-8	
French Cultural Centre - 37099	
Goethe Institute - 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203	
The Comedians 1600 Saturday Special 16:30	
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777	
Haya Arts Centre - 665195	
Hussein Youth City - 667181	
Y.W.C.A. - 41793	
Amman Municipal Library - 36111	
University of Jordan Library - 443555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mummies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Consists of a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists, from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muttalun, Jabal Luwe' deh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum):	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every Friday. 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 415261.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jubal Amman, Tel. 24540.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwe' deh, 37400.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jubal Amman, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 25541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.	
Ashrafieh, 71751.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72501.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.	
Assyrian International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:03 Fajr	
06:20 Sunrise	
11:50 Dhuhur	
14:50 Asr	
17:12 Maghreb	
18:38 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alta information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (081) 53350, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:00 Cairo (EA)	
09:05 Amman (RJ)	
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)	
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)	
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)	
10:00 Athens (RJ)	
10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:15 Beirut (RJ)	
13:00 New York (RJ)	
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)	
15:30 Baghdad (IA)	
16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)	
16:45 Larnaca (RJ)	
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)	
17:50 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)	
18:00 Paris, Damascus (IA)	
18:30 Cairo (EA)	
18:30 Beirut (MEA)	
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)	
23:05 Cairo (EA)	
00:30 Cairo (EA)	
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)	
DEPARTURES	
05:45 Cairo (RJ)	
06:30 Beirut (RJ)	
07:00 Amman (RJ)	
09:00 Cairo (EA)	
09:30 Athens (RJ)	
09:35 Beirut (RJ)	
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)	
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)	
12:00 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)	
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)	
12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ)	
12:45 Larnaca (RJ)	
14:30 Vienna, New York (RJ)	
15:30 Kuwait (KAC)	
16:30 Baghdad (IA)	
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
19:40 Jeddah (RJ)	
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)	
20:30 Cairo (RJ)	
20:30 Cairo (RJ)	
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
00:45 Cairo (RJ)	
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Local sell/buy rates in Jls	
Belgian franc	65.6/ 66
Dutch guilder	119.6/ 120.3
Egyptian guinea	320.6/ 325
French franc	43.9/ 44.2
Irish dinar	36/ 37
Italian lire (for 100)	22/ 23.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	160.2/ 161.2
Kuwaiti dinar	1273/ 1278
Lebanese lira	65.8/ 64.8
Omani rial	1078.3/ 1085
Qatari riyal	102.5/ 103
Saudi riyal	106.9/ 107.4
Swedish crown	46.1/ 46.4
Swiss franc	167.9/ 168.9
Syrian lira	54.8/ 55.7
UAE dirham	101.8/ 102.5
U.K. sterling pound	528.9/ 532.1
U.S. dollar	375.5/ 377.5
W. German mark	134.7/ 135.5
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy, with westerly moderate winds. A drop in temperature is expected. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Low/high temperature in deg.C	
Amman	5/15
Aqaba	10/25
Deserts	3/16
Jordan Valley	9/21
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 18, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 34	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 75111
Fire&nd police	194
Blood bank	75121
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	23090-3
Police rescue	192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	26381-2
Municipal water service	71125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(081) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman	44281-4
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	42441
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362
Mulhas, J. Amman	36140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	667158
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Musasher Hospital	667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali	664164
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Al-Shifa, Al-Muhajerin	77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	75111
Army, Marka	91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farouq Hussein Mansour	331814
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MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.	
Apple (Double Red)	450/ 400
Apple (Golden)	450/ 400
Apple (Starline)	450/ 400
Apple (Smith)	450/ 400
Apple (local)	220/ 180
Banana	280/ 250
Banana (Mukammal)	240/ 210
Beans	370/ 330
Cabbage	60/ 40
Carrot	150/ 120
Cauliflower (white)	60/ 40
Cucumber (large)	220/ 180
Cucumber (small)	330/ 280
Dates	750/ 700
Eggplant (large)	70/ 50
Eggplant (small)	130/ 100
Figs	400/ 300
Garlic	360/ 300
Grapes (white)	700/ 600
Grapes (black)	700/ 600
Grapefruit	100/ 70
Guava	400/ 300
Lemon	100/ 100
Marrow (large)	70/ 50
Marrow (small)	120/ 100
Melons	160/ 140
Olives	350/ 200
Onion (dry)	150/ 120
Okra	150/ 100
Oranges (Abn Sars)	240/ 180
Oranges (Shammouti)	210/ 180
Pears	750/ 700
Pepper (green)	380/ 250
Pepper (black)	380/ 250

IRBID

Dr. Amin Abu Eldeh	4468
Al Ghazweh pharmacy	73791

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Fagih	86432
Anas pharmacy	(-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	73111
Radio Jordan	74111
Ministry of Tourism	42311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone:	
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	18
Repair service	11

Jordanian, Iraqi talks focus on oil imports

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani said in a statement here Thursday that he discussed with Iraqi government officials the prospect of exporting Iraqi crude oil to Jordan where it would be refined at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company.

The minister was speaking upon returning to Amman Wednesday evening from Baghdad after two days of intensive talks which he described as fruitful.

The talks covered all aspects of economic co-operation between Jordan and Iraq and the subject of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries, Dr. Anani said.

He said both sides agreed that a high-level Iraqi delegation would visit Amman before the end of February to review with Jordanian officials bilateral trade in general, and ways of promoting trade exchange in particular.

The volume of trade between Iraq and Jordan is larger than any other between two Arab states, the minister said, and stressed that Jordan sold goods worth JD 15 million to Iraq during the duration of the Baghdad International Fair last year.

Jordan wishes to sell Iraq agricultural products, and Iraq wants to sell Jordan tractors, consumer

goods, television sets, and raw materials needed in the fertilizer industry, Dr. Anani explained.

Agreement was reached in the talks for taking steps to establish a joint Jordanian-Iraqi industrial company, which could be financed, in the initial stages, by the social security corporations of both countries, the minister said.

This subject, however, will also be on the agenda of the coming joint meetings later this month in Amman, Dr. Anani added.

Iraqi oil minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, in Baghdad that the talks were excellent and covered all aspects of economic co-operation between Iraq and Jordan.

Both sides have benefited a lot from these talks which have laid the ground for further discussions and negotiations aimed at promoting bilateral trade and economic co-operation, Mr. Taqi said.

Mr. Taqi, who voiced deep satisfaction at the outcome of the talks, said that Jordan and Iraq are connected by historical and cultural links, and both sides wish to promote these ties by strengthening political and economic relations and working towards economic integration.

Jakarta meeting urges U.S. to stay in UNESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — Information ministers from non-aligned nations are urging their governments to ask the United States to maintain its membership of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), so as to enhance the organisation's ability to continue its humanitarian services, Information Ministry Under-Secretary Peter Salah said here Thursday.

He was speaking upon returning to Amman from Jakarta where he took part in an information ministers' conference that ended Tuesday.

He said that, apart from the call on the U.S. not to withdraw from

UNESCO, the conference also called on member nations to bolster their co-operation and contacts with international federations and to find ways of facilitating the rate of exchanging news and other information material.

Before the conference, a special co-ordination committee held a meeting from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25, and called on non-aligned nations to co-ordinate their activities in information fields and to adopt a new information system that will ensure a more balanced distribution of information between advanced nations and the Third World, Mr. Salah said.

Seminar aims to ensure effective planning for women's federation

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-day seminar on planning and implementing objectives concluded Thursday at the headquarters of the National Federation of Jordanian Women (NFJW) in Jabal Hussein.

Organised by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) at the request of the NFJW, the seminar aimed to provide the technical assistance required for the efficient and effective planning of activities for the NFJW.

Mrs. Malak Al Nasser, a teacher and researcher at the IPA, said that the NFJW approached the IPA about the seminar to try and co-ordinate the many clubs within the NFJW and also to plan realistic objectives for the federation as a whole.

Mrs. Nasser said that 35 societies from all over Jordan prepared plans in advance and brought them to the seminar for assessment by the IPA, for advice on reaching their objectives within a time limit and to maximise their available resources.

Lack of resources
"One of the obstacles facing

voluntary organisations is that, unlike managed companies and businesses, they do not have defined human and financial resources because voluntary organisations rely on donations and enthusiastic participants," she said.

"Therefore, projects undertaken by such organisations need to be realistic and practical to avoid duplication and wastage," Mrs. Nasser said.

Abid Al Bani Dora, a lecturer in management at Yarmouk University, said that the seminar was a unique one in that the NFJW had taken a positive step to organise themselves and that they were being realistic in their planning by learning how to be specific and how to quantify their resources, finances, time and manpower.

Dr. Dora has been involved in many training schemes in the Arab World. He said that the new approach to training was to involve the pupils, as practiced at the workshop he held Wednesday for the NFJW in which he gave the women exercises and case studies in planning. Dr. Dora also helped them in the preparation of their



Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden seen Thursday talking to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan prior to the former's departure for home later on that day (Petra photo).

U.S. policy gradually shifting, says Georgetown U. director

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The director of public affairs at Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies said Thursday the U.S. Foreign Policy State Department is showing more understanding towards many Arab view points than it did 10 years ago.

Mr. Sterling Slappey, heading a group of 22 American journalists, arrived in Amman Wednesday as part of a Middle Eastern familiarisation tour, Damascus being their first stop.



Information Minister Laila Sharaf (left side of table) Thursday meets the 22 American journalists recently on a visit here (Petra photo).

Speaking to the Jordan Times, Mr. Slappey said that the U.S. policy towards the Middle Eastern conflict is definitely changing but "it is only shifting gradually and slowly."

He added that the U.S. has always been against the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and "will continue opposing this particular policy." Mr. Slappey said that the U.S. has always backed Israel but "will not back it anymore if it continues to act the way it has done."

Mr. Slappey pointed out that their visit to Jordan "is a great

the first session of the Lower House of Parliament, held on Jan. 9. It actually prevented one of the deputies from attending it, Petra reported.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Faher Al Masri, also meeting the U.S. delegation, stressed that Jordan has endeavored to accomplish a comprehensive and just peace in the region, according to Petra.

Addressing the delegation, Mr. Masri said that Jordan believes in the principle of establishing a comprehensive peace in exchange for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, Petra said.

During the meeting, Mr. Masri reviewed with the delegation the latest political developments in the region as well as Israeli policy aimed at the Judaizing of Arab lands and evicting its legitimate population, Petra added.

The U.S. delegation also met the University of Jordan president, Abdul Salam Al Majali, who spoke about the university's programmes and achievements, Petra said.

"The university seeks to promote scientific and educational services in Jordan and concentrates on postgraduate studies and scientific research to achieve that end," Dr. Majali said.

Most of the research projects, he said, are connected with the needs of the Jordanian and Arab societies.

The Jordanian News Agency also said that Dr. Majali spoke about the university's co-operation with other Arab universities in the occupied Arab territories and try to help them as best as it can to achieve success.

The U.S. delegation also Thursday met the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy commander, Khalil Al Wazir, and reviewed the Palestinian situation in general, while "focusing on the nature of the PLO political trends in the coming stage," he said.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Wazir (who is better known as Abu Jihad) said that the discussion with the delegation was related to the Palestinian current situation and its trends especially within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Abu Jihad said that the delegation posed questions to clarify the position relating to the Palestinian stance on the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's legitimate leadership, as well as what actually happened during the fighting around Tripoli in north Lebanon.

The U.S. delegation, which left for the West Bank Friday, will resume its tour stopping at Saudi Arabia and then Egypt via Jordan.

Loan to finance water body office

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank will lend the Water Authority JD 1.8 million to finance the construction of a new building to house the offices of the authority in Amman, in accordance with an agreement signed by the two sides here Thursday.

Election registration centres close Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Friday offered the last chance for Jordanians in the East Bank wishing to take part in the coming by-elections.

Registration centres closed Friday afternoon after remaining open for a whole week during which election committees were busy registering names of male and female Jordanians who intend to vote.

A total of eight vacant seats will be filled in the coming by-elections scheduled for March 12, according to official statements.

Masri addresses dinner for Australian minister Hassan, Hayden discuss Mideast developments

By P.V. Vivekanand and Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Thursday discussed with Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden Middle East developments in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular.

The Prince also spoke about Israel's expansionist plans and its building of settlements on Arab territory.

Also discussed were means of bolstering Australian-Jordanian co-operation in economic and agricultural fields.

The meeting was attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Faher Al Masri, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Jawad Al Anani, Central Bank Governor Sa'id Al Nabulsi, and Australia's ambassador to Jordan, Richard Gate, Mr. Masri had Wednesday evening met Mr. Hayden to discuss Middle East developments and Jordanian-Australian co-operation.

Any solution to the Palestinian problem should be based on the principles of non-admissibility of acquiring land by force, recognition of legitimate Palestinian rights and security for all countries in the region to live in peace, Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Masri, who was speaking at a dinner hosted in honour of Mr. Hayden who arrived in Amman earlier Wednesday, said Jordan has always emphasised its commitment to these principles through its steady stand by accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Arab peace plan adopted at the Arab summit held at Fez, Morocco, in September 1982, and Jordan's favourable response to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposal, also announced in 1982 September.

Jordan would continue to work

towards achieving Middle East peace and liberating the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and towards this end the country would continue co-operation and co-ordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Masri added.

The foreign minister said that Israel's intransigence against all peace initiatives and its continuation of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories reflect the Jewish state's plans to change the demography of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel's moves to implement its own laws in the occupied Arab territories, especially regulations concerning land, indicate its negative attitude towards withdrawal from the occupied territories, Mr. Masri said.

Jordan believes that it is the duty of the international community to play a creative role in efforts for Middle East peace by exerting pressure on Israel to end its aggressive policy, Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Masri also called on the Australian government to play a more effective role in efforts for peace in the Middle East. The foreign minister called for a total and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and said Israel should respect Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The international community should honour its commitment to end the Iran-Iraq war, reflected through United Nations res-

olutions, on issue, Mr. Masri said. Jordan considers the U.N. resolutions on the Gulf war, together with the concentrated efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, as basis for a solution to the Gulf conflict, the foreign minister said.

In conclusion, Mr. Masri expressed hope that the visit of Mr. Hayden to Jordan will strengthen Jordanian-Australian relations and serve mutual causes.

Mr. Hayden, in a reply to Mr. Masri's speech, praised His Majesty King Hussein's initiatives, especially the restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan, and Jordan's efforts to solve all "complex issues in the Middle East which have caused sufferings to numerous innocent people, the Palestinian people in particular."

Mr. Hayden added that the Australian government has expressed its conviction that Israel's policy of building of Jewish settlements in Arab land is a major obstacle to peace efforts. He called for a total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon except those which are asked to remain by the Lebanese government, to maintain stability and security in the country.

Mr. Hayden praised the "deep and friendly relations" between Australia and Jordan and welcomed King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian officials to visit Australia.

He also lauded the progress of technology exchange between Australia and Jordan, particularly in agriculture and archaeology.

Later, Mr. Hayden left for home and was seen off by Mr. Masri and other Jordanian officials.

Mr. Hayden cut short the duration of his stay in Jordan after receiving word of his mother's death during his visit to Syria prior to arriving in Jordan.

Bseiso calls for stronger joint links

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee, Dr. Fuad Bseiso, Wednesday called for the intensification of Jordanian-Palestinian links and the expansion of programmes aimed at enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule.

Dr. Bseiso, who was delivering a lecture to the Jordanian Economists Association in Amman, said integrated programmes should be prepared to deal with the continuous emigration of the Arab population from their homeland in view of the deteriorating

economic and social conditions there.

Jordanians and Palestinians should step up their campaign on the Arab, Islamic and international fronts to save the Palestinian people from disaster, Dr. Bseiso said.

He said that the deterioration in economic conditions within the Israeli society is bound to result in an economic catastrophe in the occupied Arab territories.

This deterioration has regrettably coincided with a drop in Arab aid to support Palestinian steadfastness, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the Israeli authorities are exacerbating the deterioration in conditions there and, as a result, thousands of workers and university graduates are unemployed and industrial commercial and tourist businesses are gradually being driven to bankruptcy.

At the same time the Israelis are now intent on relocating Palestinians, especially those living in camps, Dr. Bseiso said.

He added that the movement of people from these areas is designed to disperse Palestinians prior to evicting them from Palestine.

Department registers record tax return

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department collected JD 11 million from taxpayers in the first month of 1984, according to Department Director Abdullah Nsour.

He was quoted by Al Ra'i newspaper as saying that this is a record figure as compared with the same periods over the past four years.

In January last year the de-

partment collected half as much. He attributed the rise in the revenues to the taxpayers' response to calls by the department to pay their tax on time and in accordance with their own self-estimation of income.

Also credit should go to the department's new collection system, the staff and the confidence that exists between taxpayers and the department, Dr. Nsour added.

The department, in a drive to facilitate the system further and to help taxpayers carry out their own self estimation of income, has now opened new centres in Amman.

On February 1, 1984 the department opened centres for this purpose at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani, the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry, Dr. Nsour said.

Passport head urges applications now to beat summer rush

AMMAN (Petra) — Passports Department Director Mohammad Al Qudah has urged people to avoid applying for passports or renewing old ones during the summer when the department is normally flooded by applications.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Qudah said that in the summer

thousands of citizens and expatriates jam the department.

Applications come from pilgrims visiting holy places, students wishing to travel abroad, as well as people visiting relatives in the occupied West Bank, Mr. Qudah said.

The passports department, he

said, normally issues 4000 passports a day but this figure is usually doubled in the summer.

In the past month the department issued 8,694 passports against 10,740 in the same month of last year and the total fees collected last month were JD 187,000, Mr. Qudah said.

Government wins parliament confidence vote

Continued from page 1
said that the King is the only person who can issue a general amnesty. The prime minister also pointed out that such an amnesty would also benefit "undeserving" people such as thieves and embezzlers.

However, Mr. 'Obaidat promised that the government will study distinctive humanitarian cases and might release those who have already spent a greater part of their terms in prison.

The prime minister also said that travel restrictions between

the West and East Banks are aimed at foiling Israeli attempts to evict Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories. The restrictions were also imposed to facilitate a survey on the number of those who travel to and from the West Bank, Mr. 'Obaidat said.

The prime minister was referring to calls by several West Bank representatives to remove or ease travel restrictions between the two banks. Mr. 'Obaidat said that the restrictions are necessary to curb emigration from the West

Bank. He said that these practices can be described as "unconstitutional" but pointed out that "Jordan is dealing with an abnormal situation."

Mr. 'Obaidat promised that the government will take into consideration suggestions and opinions of the House members concerning travel regulations between the West and East Banks. He also said that the cabinet will discuss the issue with the House in a future session.

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January 29 - 31st
At HI-WAY SUPERMARKET
PICCADILLY SUPERMARKET
SWEET SUPERMARKET
AL BARQ SUPERMARKET
February 1, 2, 3
At JORDAN SUPERMARKET
SAFeway SUPERMARKET
NOWIRAN SUPERMARKET &
RAINBOW SUPERMARKET.
February 6, 7 and 8
At KHALAF STORES
SILVER SUPERMARKET
GREEN VALLEY SUPERMARKET
IFCO



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AL DUSTOUR: STRESS EDITORIALS

Friday
Al Rai: Expression of satisfaction

AS AN expression of satisfaction with the new government of Mr. Ahmad 'Obeidat and its determination to deal with the large tasks facing it, the Lower House of Parliament offered the new government a vote of confidence to enable it to go ahead with implementing the principles and values for which Jordan has lived and sacrificed for. The head of these comes the citizen, who is the dearest resource of Jordan, and his evaluation of the Palestinian question, not as a political document or a humanitarian cause, but as a matter of national identity and security.

The Lower House of Parliament agreed to the seven principles on which the government has based both its internal and external policies. The House's agreement comes in implementation of King Hussein's instructions for deepening and strengthening the concept of democracy, consultation and the participation in building the homeland and defending it.

The deputies said 'yes' to strengthening the army and equipping it with the most up to date arms capable of enabling it to implement its role in defending the land efficiently. They also called for the formation of a people's army in accordance with a well-planned and integrated plan, irrespective of any financial difficulties. In this regard, they appealed to sister Arab countries to meet their financial obligations in Jordan.

The deputies agreed to the established conviction that the Palestinian question is Jordan's major cause and that financial and moral support should continue to be provided to them in order to help them confront the occupation and resist Israel's attempts to dominate the land and expel them. The deputies called for co-ordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and all Arab sister countries, with the aim of ending occupation and restoring usurped rights.

The deputies lauded the government's policy on the external scene, that is supporting Arab solidarity, adding by the Arab charters, standing by Iraq in its just defence for its land and rights, working to ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, welcoming the return to Egypt to the Arab fold and strengthening ties of solidarity amongst the Muslim countries. The vote of confidence in Mr. 'Obeidat's government is a real interpretation of the true will of the people. It represents a pledge on the part of the deputies and people to support the government and share in shouldering common responsibilities. As long as the government applies this policy, and works to achieve the goals it has outlined in its ministerial statement, such confidence will continue.

Al Dusiour: Cabinet given mandate

THE VOTE of confidence in the new government of Mr. 'Obeidat, which was Thursday offered to it by members of the Lower House of Parliament holds the new government of Mr. 'Obeidat responsible for achieving the goals and aspirations to which the deputies indicated, in addition to implementing the basic principles included in the ministerial statement. It is of considerable significance to point out that the withholding of votes of confidence in the new government by two deputies is a healthy phenomenon which constitutes one of the aspects of democracy which we in Jordan boast of.

The role of parliamentarianism in any democratic regime is not less important than the support role, since it presents the other side of the coin. Therefore, while congratulating the new government on the vote of confidence, we express our support to the voices which called on the cabinet to give top priority to other matters. We call on the new government to support national unity and to strengthen the ties of brotherhood and cohesion amongst the citizens of the country. This warrants serious work in order to build a coherent and strong society capable of shouldering the heavy tasks and responsibilities entrusted to it and participating in confronting the existing challenges.

The corner stone in the government's policy should be to support the steadfastness of our people in the occupied Arab territories and to enable them to face the Israeli plans aimed at uprooting them and occupying the remaining part of their land.

Although the recent measures adopted in respect to people crossing the bridges to the East Bank have helped stop emigration, it is essential to reconsider such measures, to reduce its effects on the morale of the two banks.

Thursday
Al Rai: King clarifies situation

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein is on his way to the United States to undergo medical check-ups there. But, before leaving Amman, the King made clear to the Reagan administration and to the world at large a number of basic points pertaining to the Palestinian problem and the aspired peace in the Middle East. He explained his views through two interviews with Newsweek magazine and the U.S. NBC television network. The King summarised the situation here by stressing that:

- 1- there will be no hope for achieving any progress towards peace if Israel pursues its present settlement policies in the West Bank.
- 2- What happened at Al Aqsa Mosque a few days ago emphasises the fact that Israel is incapable of providing proper security for the holy places.
- 3- That Israel plans to relocate West Bank refugees and residents — driving them to the Jordan Valley as a first step towards evicting them by force to the East Bank.
- 4- That the U.S. Middle East policy raises questions and makes us wonder how this policy can solve the Lebanese issue and bring to an end the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 5- That the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the PLO will take part in future peace negotiations. The Arab World does not want to see the PLO acting for them in solving the Middle East issue, but it wants America to refrain from putting obstacles in the path of peace.

Al Dusiour: Sense and reason needed

THE LATEST developments in Lebanon give rise to deep concern because they might be an indication of preparations by the various factional groups for another round of civil war. Each party is desperate and each will fight to the end in the absence of peaceful solutions and the lack of progress towards resuming reconciliation talks at Geneva. The leaders of warring factions are now paving the way for the resumption of hostilities by exchanging acrimonious statements and accusations. To add to this confusion, non-Lebanese parties are instigating factions to pursue their selfish goals through force and at the expense of the civilians and the independence of Lebanon.

It might be useful to remind these factions that the road of violence and killing can never achieve peace nor can it fulfil the aspirations of any of the combatants or their leaders. Despite the great number of non-Lebanese parties involved in putting pressure on the factions and despite the complications of the situation, the Lebanese leaders should resort to good sense and reason. They are the ones to blame if a new outbreak of fighting erupts and they will have to bear the responsibility for the innocent civilians who might fall victim in such a war.

Sawt Al Shaab: Negotiation the only way

LEBANON IS facing the danger of internal conflicts again. The leading parties to the conflict are exchanging accusations and blaming each other for the failure to achieve progress in a national reconciliation. The leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, Mr. Walid Junblatt, has accused the government of President Amin Gemayel of working towards imposing its hegemony on all the other forces in the country, and of supporting the Phalangist Party — the arch-enemy of the Druze community, whose head is Mr. Junblatt himself.

Mr. Junblatt's recent statement, in which he said that there can be no peaceful solution and war is inevitable, can mean one thing: That the Druze and their adversaries are preparing for another round of civil war. Fighting, as the Lebanese themselves have found already out, can never achieve a solution to the country's problems. Only through dialogue and negotiation among the various groups can peace be achieved.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Sight-catching phenomenon called Jackson

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — People in the Middle East are quite used to seeing prominent American individuals travel here and there on "diplomatic" missions. They are usually accompanied by a retinue, photographed by journalists, and always make important pronouncements on important matters which make them look very important. In the American language, we even have a word: VIP, which is an abbreviation for Very Important Person.

The journey of the Reverend Jesse Jackson to Damascus might at first appear to be just another such visit. What significance could the visit have other than as publicity for the "first black man in American history" to seek the nomination for the presidency? For Middle Easterners, the significance is that the Reverend Jackson is the first political figure in recent American history to make

no secret of his sympathy for the Palestinian cause. In fact, Jackson has been the target of bitter attacks by pro-Israel groups who see in him someone who has cracked the hitherto solid pro-Israel posture of the Democratic Party.

The Jackson candidacy is no trivial thing. Blacks who represent something over 10 per cent of the U.S. population have started to vote in great numbers. The U.S. has black mayors in many of its biggest cities: Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and in many smaller ones. The Chief of Police in New York City is black. The number of blacks in key institutions, especially the military and the police, is rising. And while most blacks are very poor, they have certain organisational advantages: there are thousands of black churches, and a large number of them are giving a great deal of

money to Jesse Jackson. And while many black leaders fear and dislike Jackson, they see the great influence he is having over ordinary black people.

Jesse Jackson has become a symbol of the rising political action of black people in the U.S. The other seven candidates in the Democratic Party wish he would go away, but he is in the race and his influence is growing.

In earlier years, the friends and supporters of the Zionists in the Democratic Party were the most active supporters for civil rights for black people in the U.S. But in the 1960's, a crack opened in that alliance between blacks and the Zionists. The crack grew wider in the 1970's, and in the 1980's Jesse Jackson whose spiritual lineage goes directly to the revered Martin Luther King Jr., openly indicates his support for the cause of the

Palestinians. When he first did so some years ago, he was not yet a presidential candidate. Now he is one.

For the Zionists, the link to blacks was very important. It enabled the Zionists to claim that their ideology remained "liberal," even "leftist." And especially when an ultra-rightwing like Begin became prime minister of Israel, American Zionists could still say: See, we are still on the left because of our political coalition with blacks. No longer now. Jesse Jackson is gathering up support from black leaders, one after the other. And so he is making the break between blacks and American Zionists decisive and final.

It is accidental that the first U.S. prisoner of war since Vietnam should be a black man. That gave the Reverend Jackson a political opportunity to dramatise his links to the Arab

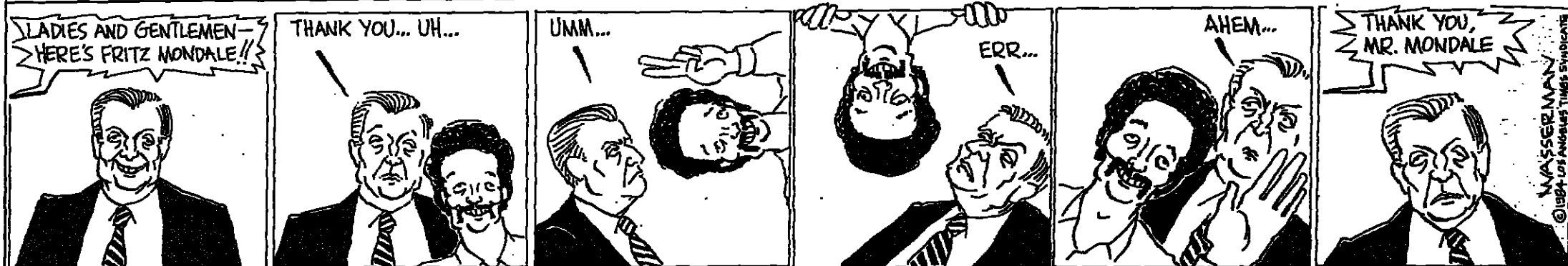
World. It is not impossible that he might even try to go to Israel to show he is balanced. But that would not matter. What counts is that his priority "tilt" has been towards the Palestinians and the Arabs, and only secondarily to the Zionists and the Israelis.

Why should an American politician tilt towards the Palestinians? There are not enough Palestinian votes in the U.S. to make a difference. And it is certainly not to get access to "Saudi money." Jackson has plenty of money and, in any case, taking Arab money can be the "kiss of death" for American politicians. In Jackson's case, the reasons are clear. He is making a strong appeal to all Third World people in the U.S., to all who are poor, of different skin colours, and who are alien. He appeals to poor whites as he does to blacks and Hispanic people. He gives his

support to those most oppressed of all peoples, the Palestinians. He sees himself as a leader going against the rich, powerful, and privileged. And he implies: You Zionists belong among the rich, powerful, and privileged. He is what Americans call a "populist."

Jackson is not a man of the left or the right. He is a figure more like Nasser or Nkrumah or the early Mussolini or Sun Yat-Sen of China. He is a powerful mover of people. It is almost impossible that he will become president, and only slightly less so that he might be nominated for vice-president.

But already he has done more than anyone to move the historical tilt of the American political scene toward Israel in the opposite direction — towards some sympathy and understanding, however slight, of the Palestinian and Arab people.



Shy signs of ice melting after 60 years of British-Soviet diplomatic relations

By Peter Millar
Reuter

MOSCOW — Britain and the Soviet Union marked 60 years of diplomatic relations Thursday amid slight signs of a tentative recovery from a chill caught in the shadow of cold war dialogue between the superpowers.

Like the other West European countries which have accepted U.S. cruise or Pershing-2 missiles, Britain has been harshly criticised by the official Soviet media, which have charged that London has become the handmaiden of Washington.

Newspaper cartoons have shown a missile-toting cowboy beside a sharp-nosed, wavy-haired lioness brandishing a Trident — typically stylised caricatures of Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

But with operational deployment of cruise missiles in Britain already a fact, there are indications that both nations are adopting a more pragmatic attitude to their relations.

Foreign Ministers Andrei Gromyko and Sir Geoffrey Howe met at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures and agreed to aim for more talks before the United Nations General Assembly meets in September.

This probably means that Mr. Howe will visit Moscow before

July after a trip to Britain by Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Georgy Korniyenko, according to informed sources in Moscow.

A further meeting between Mr. Howe and Mr. Gromyko would be presented by both sides as a similar sign of willingness to maintain a dialogue despite serious differences.

The last visit by a foreign minister for bilateral talks was that of David Owen in 1978.

There has been no official visit at cabinet level since Mrs. Thatcher came to power in 1979 with a brand of tough-talking foreign policy which led Moscow to dub her the "iron lady" and accuse her of "trying on Churchill's trousers."

Lord Carrington, then foreign minister, came briefly to Moscow in July 1981 as an emissary of the European Community to put forward an initiative on Afghanistan.

Malcolm Rifkind, a junior minister at the British Foreign Office, conducted wide-ranging talks in Moscow with Mr. Korniyenko last April despite a series of mutual expulsions of diplomats on spying charges.

Both sides say they would favour more trade, the centuries-old basis of relations between Britain and Russia which has moved into the doldrums in recent years.

Trade turnover between the two countries was £1.17 billion (\$1.7 billion) last year, according

to British figures, a minute fraction of either country's trade.

The balance is almost two to one in Moscow's favour and Britain would like to see more contracts going to British firms.

Crude oil, of a different grade to that extracted in Britain's North Sea fields, makes up over half of Britain's Soviet imports. Timber and furs are also significant — a long way down — motor vehicles, including the cheap Lada saloon cars.

The Soviet Union's chief imports from Britain are industrial machinery, chemical products, textiles and a small but energetic high-technology, data-processing sector.

Britain has enough gas from the North Sea not to need supplies from Siberia on the controversial East-West pipeline.

An article in the official Soviet daily Pravda to mark the 60th anniversary of relations praised British firms working in Moscow but complained that London still reacted to pressure from the White House to impose trade restrictions.

But senior Western analysts said Moscow had probably been surprised by the Thatcher government's refusal to back the U.S. on sanctions over the pipeline and might consequently be tempted to put more trust in British contracts.

British Trade Minister Paul Channon will attend the session of

the Joint Commission on Trade in Moscow this May.

British Ambassador to Moscow Sir Iain Sutherland told a meeting of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce in Moscow last March that he regarded the promotion of trade as a primary function of his embassy.

He harked back to the first British ambassadors to Moscow in the 16th century, when English merchants came up the Dvina River and overland to Moscow in the reign of Ivan The Terrible.

Britain established full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union on Feb. 2, 1924, a fortnight after the death of the revolution's leader Vladimir Ilich Lenin and nearly a decade before the U.S., though after Afghanistan and Germany.

But three years earlier, despite British intervention in Russia after the revolution, Britain had become the first Western country to sign a trade agreement with the Bolsheviks.

It is popular myth that this is why British diplomats are still allocated car number plates beginning "D OOI".

By July 1921 Britain had a permanent trade mission in Moscow, predecessor to the modern embassy's commercial office.

Within three months of the office's establishment, however, each side had complained that the other was breaking the rules.

What is Iran like five years after Khomeini's return?

By Michael Sheridan
Reuter

TEHRAN — In snow-shrouded Tehran this week Iranians look back on five years of revolution and war since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned in triumph from exile.

When Khomeini stepped on to Iranian soil on Feb. 1, 1979, for the first time in 15 years, he set his seal on Iran's changeover from a monarchy to an Islamic Republic.

In many ways, it is now winter for the revolution.

At home Iranian leaders preach steadfastness instead of insurrection. At war with Iraq for more than three years and at odds with both Washington and Moscow, they see the outside world as a cold, hostile place.

The grey clouds blotting out the snowy Elburz mountains north of Tehran this week also barred unwelcome guests, such as the Iraqi jets that left to air raid warnings last week.

Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, secretary of Tehran's militant Muslim Clergy Society, said the alert "reminded Tehran's people, who are absent-mindedly preoccupied with bread and chickens, that a war is being fought. People had better stop complaining of scarcities."

But from the teeming, poor suburbs of the south to elegant districts on the northern mountain slopes, power cuts and shortages of basic items are affecting almost everyone in Iran's wartime economy.

In the last five years, the capital of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, a Westernised, garish place offering entertainment from the splendour to the sordid, has become a devout, austere city.

The Shah died of cancer in exile and the men who overthrew him now rule this vast country, rich in oil, mineral resources, agricultural potential and manpower.

"I think you could say fairly that the revolution has become institutionalised," an Iranian official said.

The country is approaching its second round of elections since the revolution to the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament, a contest certain to be dominated by the clergy under the guidance of Ayatollah Khomeini, who lives on the slopes above the noise, chaos and pollution of the city centre.

Along with monuments to the Pahlavi dynasty, Iran's revolutionary leaders have brought down plenty of other idols. The Tudeh (Communist) Party, which survived years of persecution under the Shah, is decimated, its leaders in jail.

U.S. influence, at a peak under the Shah, has vanished. Washington is now "the great Satan," public enemy number one.

The symbols of American "cultural imperialism" — hotels, fast-food restaurants and cinemas — are either closed, renamed or have been toned down to conform with Islamic tradition.

Passengers arriving at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport are greeted by a huge sign across the hangar doors reading "down with the

U.S.A."

Women in Tehran wear a discreet headscarf or the voluminous black chador. The pasharan, or revolutionary guards, are empowered to arrest any woman flouting Islamic decency in public.

Dotted the Tehran skyline, the gaunt snow-clad silhouettes of tall cranes and the rusting skeletons of half-built offices and apartments testify to the abandonment of grandiose projects deemed worthless by the revolutionaries.

"I believe that the revolution is firmly supported by the great majority of the rural and urban working class," a foreign academic long resident in Iran said. "There is no doubt, however, that the upper classes, who had things their way under the Shah, have all fled and the middle classes are grim," he added.

Touring the rich areas of north Tehran, a landscape of shuttered villas, frozen swimming pools and forsaken pleasure gardens, is like wandering on to a film set when the last actor has left.

Restaurants are empty, forlorn places by 10 at night. Bars, nightclubs and discotheques no longer exist, and alcohol is banned. "Five years ago, we were all delighted to see the Shah go," said one Western-educated Iranian woman. "We didn't look into the future too much."

But Khomeini saw the future when he stepped off his Air France plane. "Our nation is based on the nation's votes and the will of God," he said in a famous address that day to thousands gathered at the Behesht-e Zarrā cemetery outside the city.

Whatever the grumbles of the middle classes, the people of Iran, the revolutionary leaders say with justification, have voted for them and they are Khomeini's "imam".

"The people have played no part in the designation of their representatives for the Majlis," Khomeini said at the cemetery. "Such a Majlis, such an assembly, is illegal."

For the next elections, due this month or next, the five dominant Islamic groups forming the main power centres in Iran are adopting a joint list of "worthy" candidates at Khomeini's command.

"The most important political and social issue in the country is the elections," Ayatollah Kani said recently. "The clergy cannot remain indifferent to it."

"This revolution, whether the enemy admits it or not, was led by the clergy and the clergy must not quit the scene and we do not plan to do so," he added.

Iran was the focus of world attention during the 44-day hostage crisis at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, a key factor in the 1980 presidential election that swept Ronald Reagan to the White House.

In the Gulf war against its Muslim neighbour Iraq, Iran remains determined to battle on to victory.

Its leaders are equally determined to spread their Islamic revolution, which they consider divinely inspired, throughout the Muslim World.



The U.S. trade deficit, expected to soar from 70 billion to \$100 billion this year as the strong dollar hits exports and cheapens imports, has handed the Democrats an issue which could hurt Mr. Reagan.

Experts say this has led to two to three million lost jobs. Accordingly, Mr. Mondale would threaten to match the export subsidies of U.S. trading partners to reduce the imbalance.

Candidate Reuben Askew, a former U.S. trade representative, says the proposal might cost up to \$130 billion. But Mr. Mondale's issues director scoffs at the charge.

"The threat will bring people to the conference table at a rate of velocity that will surprise even the cynics," he says.

Most candidates link the need

No ideological standpoint worthy of respect can offer arguments against the indivisibility of human rights

Human rights and world bodies

By Dr. Vojin Dimitrijevic

ASPIRATIONS to improve man's lot by invoking his elementary right and freedoms are one of the most important international topics of our age. The promotion of human rights and their protection are one of the principal goals of the United Nations and many other international organisations, both universal and regional.

At the initiative of the United Nations, and under its aegis, the area of human rights and freedoms has been transferred from exclusive national to international jurisdiction. Prior to the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948, the human rights campaign chiefly evolved in the nature of parallel struggles in different countries and in different social and political settings for improving or reforming internal legislation and practice. In the era of the United Nations, no-one can deny that the position of human beings and human groups in any part of the world is not a matter of interest to every other human being or community, regardless of state frontiers and citizenship. The U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration, the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights, are just a formal expression of the realisation — dramatically underlined by the experience of the World War II and the anticolonial revolution — that human dignity is indivisible. Human rights have become in the eyes of modern men and women a good which does not need to be proved by a deduction from higher values (according to one's ideological inclinations), but which exists as an empirically verifiable fact.

Inviolable idea

Most modern states, no matter how different their political, social and economic system may be, declare their full respect for human rights in their constitution and other documents of constitutional rank. Even when the ways of realising such rights are widely different and even when the constitutional guarantees of human rights are considered inadequate or illusory, it is still true that all governments — with, of course, some conspicuous exceptions — seek to identify themselves on the basis of one or another programme of promoting and protecting elementary human rights. This, too, is a way of acknowledging the inviolability of that idea.

The past three and a half decades of U.N. activity in the human rights area have been impressive

in every respect. In the course of time, the Universal Declaration has been translated through a kind of legislative effort from a series of proclaimed universally-accepted objectives into a series of concrete provisions many of which impose clear obligations upon states and give individuals rights which can be realised directly. But even when such obligations or rights do not exist in the narrow, technical sense as contractual obligations, the entire effort of the United Nations and other international organisations has exerted a tremendous influence on general international law by establishing minimal common standards of international protection of the fundamental dignity of the human personality. Even the courts in states which have not ratified the human rights pact (such as the United States, for example) have applied these common standards in cases involving genocide, torture, protracted arbitrary detention and persistent and harsh violations of internationally-recognised human rights. Experience in dealing with major emigration movements has perfected the notion of persecution: In no no circumstances can the extension of aid to victims of persecution any longer be considered as interference in the internal affairs of states: what is more, the newly-established customary rule of non-refoulement imposes upon every state the obligation of offering a victim of persecution at least temporary refuge.

Nevertheless, the expectations aroused by the passage of a series of international acts and by the various actions taken by international organisations have been so great that the mentioned enviable achievements have not sufficed to create a sense of satisfaction as well. On the contrary, it is a wide-spread opinion that the state of human rights is becoming worse and worse and that the last quarter of this century does not promise to be any better in that respect than was the previous one. This uneasiness is based on the following impressions:

First, human rights violations tend to become massive and to affect a large number of people; second, the nice-sounding international instruments are on the whole helpless as appropriate mechanisms for their implementation are lacking; third, while glorifying human rights many governments deny them to their own subjects though they use this powerful idea as a political instrument against other states for purposes which have nothing to do with the rights and freedoms of people.

Although these impressions are often justified, it should be repeated that they result in part from

overly great expectations. They do not show that human rights violations are just as flagrant and numerous today as they were before, but rather they testify to there being a much greater sensitivity to them even when they occur far away. On the other hand, such worries reflect a dynamism which is typical of the very notion of human rights. The fight for human rights really has no end: with the progress of society and the emancipation of the human personality all such rights as have been won and defined are gradually shown to be incomplete and inadequate. For example, the Human Rights pacts include the right to self-determination which was lacking in the Universal Declaration. This evolution is vividly illustrated by the current debate on the so-called "third generation" of human rights which should complement the "first generation" of civil and political rights and the "second generation" of economic, social and cultural rights. Never will there be a sense of complete satisfaction with the attained level of development of human rights either in individual societies or in the international community, at large.

It is quite clear that it is much easier for a common programme of human rights and appropriate mechanisms for their protection to be adopted within a smaller group of states with common cultural, ideological and political characteristics, such as, for example, the European Council (the European Human Rights Court). Of course, the result of such an agreement is a specific perception of what human rights are and of the permitted measure of international jurisdiction. Instead of regretting the fact that the United Nations and other universal organisations do not constitute such a homogeneous group of states one should, at this moment, concentrate on how to improve things within the limits of the realistically possible in organisations rallying very different members, organisations which in all probability will remain heterogeneous for a long time yet because of the differing features of the states they bring together but which are nevertheless loyal to the principle of human freedoms and rights.

Better conditions

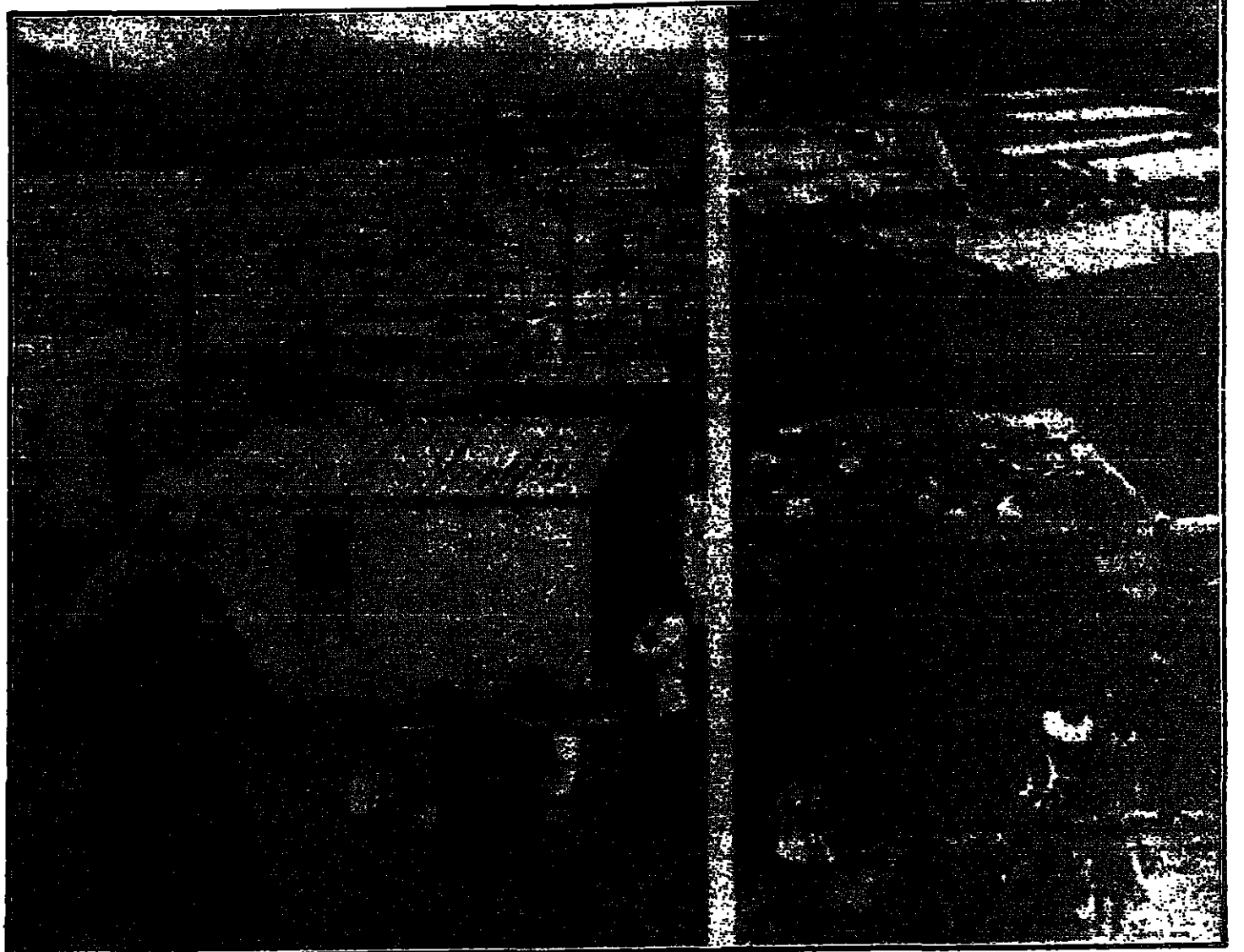
So as to overcome certain obstacles an effort must be made both in universal international organisations and by all those supporting them and the cause of human rights to divorce the latter from prejudices about different socio-political systems and cultural traditions. This is not by any means an easy intellectual task because the very idea of human

rights and its application are to a great extent dependent on workings of the political system and on cultural attitudes. But such an effort, apart from being politically necessary, will show that the ideological currents which are prevalent in the world today are not, in essence, hostile to the human rights idea. The abuses which are being made in the name of ideological stands so as to achieve a measure of political legitimisation should not contaminate those very stands. The exploitation of human rights in international forums for political purposes alien to them, unfortunately, has adverse consequences in academic circles as well. There are scientists who claim that human rights are impossible in Communism, socialism or capitalism (depending on one's basic inclination), and there are others who go as far as contending that non-Christian and "non-Western" cultures are unable even to grasp the notion of human rights. Yet, even a casual glance at the geographical lay-out of what are clearly gross violations of human rights will show that they cross ideological and cultural boundaries and that, sadly enough, they occur in countries which call themselves (or which others call) Western-Christian, socialist or capitalist.

No priorities

In other words, one should call attention to actual practice and condemn it if it deserves that, but to link up any chosen political orientation of system with better or poorer prospects with regard to human rights, at least at the United Nations and other universal organisations, is fruitless and counterproductive. Paradoxically, this detrimental tendency has been fed, in part, by overly eager delegates in international organisations extolling the achievements in their own country in a manner suggesting that they are specific to that country, alone, and would be quite impossible in different conditions.

Springing from a similar source is the tendency to establish a hierarchy of human rights in which some (precisely those which are better provided for in the speaker's country) are more "important" and more "fundamental" than others. Not unlike this are the false dilemmas created when, for example, it is claimed that social and economic rights can only be realised at the expense of civil and political rights, and vice versa. Yet another dangerous stand proceeds from the thesis that human rights must "temporarily" be sacrificed for the sake of the more important interests of economic and technological progress, as if rights are not synonymous with progress and



Is it not a basic human right of the Palestinians' to return home and have a decent living?

as if — later on — the lost rights and freedoms can be resurrected by a simple act of will. It is an old rule that human rights are never granted: They were and they are the fruit of political struggle and social pressure.

No ideological standpoint worthy of respect can offer arguments against the indivisibility of human rights. This is true not only of the common dichotomy of social and economic rights in relation to civil and political rights, but of the relation between the rights of individuals and the rights of a collectivity. Societies are not just a sum total of individuals and there are no individual freedoms without the rights and freedoms of a group. The fact that the right to self-determination or minority rights are not exercised and protected in the same manner as individual rights does not lower their rank. It does not detract from their importance. The same applies to the "new rights" to development and to a healthy environment.

If not used as a political weapon and if freed from unnecessary ideological overtones, the discussion on human rights in international organisations will suffer less from other hindrances. The link between human rights and state sovereignty will become less sensitive if concern because of individual violations ceases to be viewed as political interference and as an instrument for the imposition of social changes. Finally, states cannot undertake to prevent all del-

icts, but they must be able to provide effective legal and other cures for them and for removing the consequences.

A favourable international climate enables internal social forces to work more effectively towards the promotion of human rights. Pressure from abroad may improve the lot of a few individuals for a short time, but the average standard of human rights and freedoms, the lot of the majority, can only be improved through an action predominantly taking place within the community, an action which needs the support of world public opinion but not political intervention as well. Unfortunately, there is certain aristocratic selectiveness when giving publicity to human rights violations — both in international organisations, either governmental or nongovernmental, and in the mass media. In this way, the impression is gained that only prominent people with good connections abroad, and even former members of the oppressive elite, can benefit from an international action while, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of anonymous victims are left to their "uninteresting" lot in an atmosphere of indifference and oblivion.

Less political manipulation

Just like disarmament, the human rights complex depends also on confidence building. If,

taking into account some previous remarks, confidence is established within a larger or smaller group of states, the mechanisms for international protection of human rights can be applied to test their real worth with less political suspicion. Even the highly sensitive issue of complaints by individuals against their own state authorities would then lose some of their mystical qualities. The possibility of such complaints being lodged on a regional or international plane is now based on the free consent of states. Those states which have given their consent have done so not only because they believe they have a highly satisfactory human rights record, but also because they have confidence in the international bodies authorised to estimate to what extent their behaviour conforms to the obligations they have assumed. It is obvious that this practice should be taken up by other and different states as well.

Finally, mention should be made of the role played by international non-governmental organisations in the promotion of human rights. Their role is very important indeed, because elementary human rights and freedoms are, in essence, a transnational issue.

The treaties under which they are ensured are a separate kind of international treaty differing from most others in that they do not establish mutual privileges bet-

ween the parties to the agreement but set up a regime to benefit all people, citizens and non-citizens. Consequently, one cannot expect always that foreign states will react to every blatant violation of human rights, especially if, as a result, they may suffer political or economic damage, or worse still, if they do not stand to benefit politically.

Transnational organisations complement this system of international supervision. They must perform this important role energetically, boldly and — responsibly. This last quality will be lacking if a non-governmental organisation or group puts its own publicity before the interests of the persons it is allegedly protecting. It will be lacking also if the proteges are selected on political grounds. There is no serious and sincere striving for human rights if it is judged, not by its effects, but by its external gloss, and, finally — this mainly applies to national and regional non-governmental organisations — there is no courage or responsibility if the difficulties in realising human rights in one's own environment are forgotten and neglected in favour of campaigns against foreign states.

Dr. Dimitrijevic is professor of law at the Belgrade Faculty of law and a member of the Yugoslav Human Rights Committee. He contributed this article to Belgrade-based Review of International Affairs.

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Jepson, Rizk romp to rally victory

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — David Jepson driving a Toyota Starlet with Barbara Longhurst as co-driver won the experienced driver class of the third Jordanian National Rally held at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) Friday.

Jepson has 12 years of rallying experience behind him having competed in events in England, Scotland and Jordan, but it was the first rally for his Longhurst as navigator.

Only 29 seconds of penalty points came between Jepson and Tony Walker with co-driver Gordon Mackenzie who came second in the experienced class driving a Daihatsu Charman.

Organised by the RAC and sponsored by the Petra Bank, the rally aimed at attracting newcomers to the sport.

Winner of the novice class was George Rizk with Maher Asfahani as co-driver in their Opel Ascona with His Highness Prince Abdullah and Amer Bilbeisi coming second, also in an Opel Ascona, despite an unfortunate crash into a barrier at the start of Special Stage (SS) 1.

The race covered a distance of approximately 200 km in total with 14 Special Stages over rough and asphalt terrain to test the skills of the drivers.

A total of 38 cars were registered to compete but only 34 started the mornings (SS) 1 at the RAC Drivers Training Centre. Cars 31, 33 and 36 failed to show for the start and car number 3 driven by George Haddad could not start due to clutch trouble. Of the 34 starters, 26 completed both the morning and afternoon courses.

The first casualty of the day occurred at SS 2, on Zai road near Salt, when driver Yanal Komok's Morris Mini GT (No. 18) sprang an oil leak and could not continue. Car number 16, a Lancia HPE 1600, driven by Khaled Bayyat and Omar Shahine crashed between SS 2 and SS 3 near Salt without injury to either party. Other cars failing to complete the morning circuit were car numbers 11, 26, 38 and 14.

Imad Bustami and Omar Rafie driving car number 11, a Nissan Silvia, broke down at Stage 6 with engine trouble, the same problem

also affected car number 26, a Volvo 244 DL driven by Mithkal Asfour and Nicola Bilbeh who had the misfortune to break down 2 km before the end of the morning circuit, which finished at the RAC. Ghazi and Hisham Zeitoun in their Datsun 160 number 38 were prevented from continuing after the steering column malfunctioned at SS 5. Also at SS 5 Bassam Dirani and Hassan Hakim had problems with their VW Golf GTI, number 14 and failed to finish the morning stages.

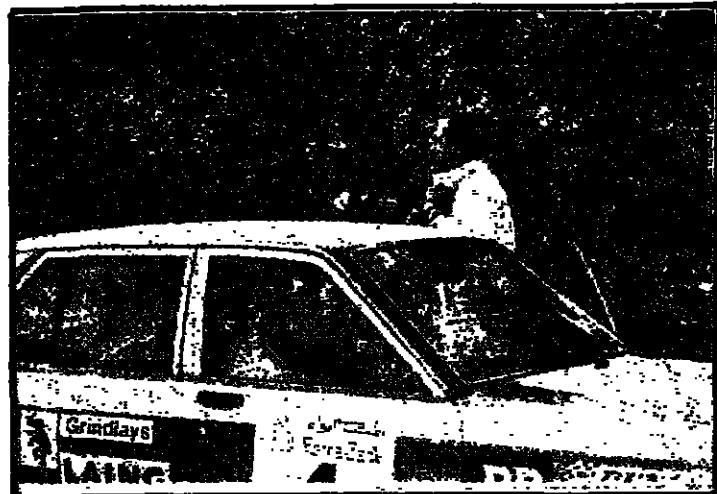
Two exciting, though unfortunate accidents, occurred when the drivers set off again in the afternoon to repeat, and hopefully better their morning times.

Cars 9 and 19 driven by Hamed Ghazi and George Lama respectively, both overturned at SS 10 and ended upside down next to each other on the steep, rocky track of the stage. Neither the drivers or their co-drivers were injured.

Due to better organisation than the previous National Rallies, Friday's third National Rally drew large crowds who this year had an opportunity to view the cars in action at the start when they competed in the first and eighth 'Special Stages' held at the training centre of the RAC.

The tight curves and hairpin bends of the training centre course proved a testing start for many of the less experienced drivers with His Highness Prince Abdullah and co-driver Amer Bilbeisi crashing into the barrier at the end of their first of two laps around the circuit. Uninjured, they continued after their car, Opel Ascona, was lifted off the concrete barrier by race stewards to a clock of 3 minutes 52 seconds for SS 1.

Nerves also affected two other first time ralliers, Wajeeh Al Shishani and Amer Al Turk who made a false start in their Honda Accord, number 25, and managed a SS 1 time of 3 minutes 21 seconds compared to the fastest SS 1



David Jepson (right) taking a break after Friday morning's rally session.

time of the morning 2 minutes 38 seconds set by the experienced British driver David Jepson in a Toyota Starlet, number 4.

The third National Rally highlighted the increased popularity of rallying as a sport in Jordan. Not only were there more competitors than previous National Rallies, but also the crowd attendances were excellent.

For the first time, results of other stages and progress reports of the rally were broadcast in English and Arabic keeping the audience informed as stewards at the various stages radioed in their reports.

Spectators said that this was an important improvement and that they welcomed both the opportunity to view the first Special Stage in Amman as well as the

broadcast reports keeping them in touch with the other stages.

Picnickers and residents of Salt and Suweileh watched the cars race by with a mixture of bewilderment and excitement while those spectators at the RAC had the full atmosphere of rallying with the scream of highly tuned engines and the sound of tyres on the tarmac as the competitors sped around the circuit.

Mr. Walid Abu Zeid, member of the RAC Organising Committee told the Jordan Times that the Jordan International Rally to be held on July 26, 27 will be of the same format with the same circuits repeated and a Special Stage at the RAC.

Mr. Abu Zeid said that it was encouraging that more people were taking an interest in the sport

and that the RAC was encouraging this with monthly speed trials, which with the results of the three National Rallies, will result in a championship presentation at the end of the year.

The next Jordanian National Rally will be held in the middle of May this year with another in September '84 in addition to the International Rally, to be held July 26 and 27th.

Results

Novice Class

1st. No. 34 George Rizk, Maher Asfahani, (Opel Ascona), Time 42m 20s.
2nd. No. 24 His Highness Prince Abdullah, Amer Bilbeisi (Opel Ascona), Time 43m 31s.
3rd. No. 37 Roberto Khoury, Robert Bevan (Toyota Carina), Time 45m 49s.

Expert Class

1st. David Jepson, Barbara Longhurst (Toyota Starlet), 39m 50s.
2nd. Anthony Walker, Gordon Mackenzie (Daihatsu Charman), 40m 19s.
3rd. Nabil Darani, Vaughn Dennis (Renault Turbo), 41m 5s.

Class winners

Class 1 - all cars up to 1300 cc. David Jepson 39m 50s.
Class 2 - cars over 1300 cc and up to 1600 cc. Anthony Walker.
Class 3 - all cars over 1600 cc and up to 2000 cc. Nabil Karam (Toyota Corolla 2000 GT), Time 43m 12s.
Class 4 - all cars over 2000 cc. Hasan Alaeiddin (Porsche Carrera), Time 46m 36s.



Prince Abdullah streaks away after his Opel Ascona crashed into a safety barrier. The Prince went on to win second place in the Novice class. (Photo by Anne Counsell)

Sarajevo set for Games

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevo, which last made headlines by triggering a world war, looks set to stage what could be the most successful Winter Games in Olympic history.

Six years of planning and construction have transformed this sleepy town of 450,000 inhabitants, a contrast of ancient minarets and modern high-rise blocks.

The five-ringed Olympic flags flutter along newly-carved avenues bustling with traffic between two Olympic villages and the new slopes and ski installations which have changed the skyline of surrounding mountains.

Fears of last-minute hitches over organisation, housing and security have not materialised, prompting International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch to declare that the Games could be the best in Winter Olympic history.

Even the weather has been kind, greeting the thousands of visitors with unseasonably mild temperatures. But snow lies thick on the wood-clad hills around.

A trouble-free games would be a welcome respite for Olympic officials who have come to expect controversy and criticism almost since their inception at Chamonix 60 years ago.

The last games, in Lake Placid four years ago, were dogged by problems over transport. In 1976, they were saved by Innsbruck from possible extinction after the original host city, Denver, pulled out.

Sarajevo's mainly Muslim population have staked their future on the unaccustomed glare of publicity they will attract over the next fortnight and hope to make a new name for the eastern-most of Yugoslavia's six republics.

Its renown has hitherto rested on the two gunshots which rang out on June 28, 1914, assassinating Archduke Franz Ferdinand and sparking World War I.

The city now hopes to cap its endeavour and more than \$130m of investment by proving itself a model of good housekeeping and organisation.

By staying within budget, or showing a slight profit, Sarajevo will provide a welcome confidence boost to deeply-indebted Yugoslavia as it wrestles with a profound economic crisis and negotiates for more international loans.

But next Wednesday, when the Olympic flame is lit at the opening ceremony in the Kosevo Stadium, financial worries will be forgotten.

The blue ribbon event of alpine skiing, the men's downhill, will provide the premier attraction on the first full day of competition with Austria seeking their third successive victory.

Franz Klammer, gold medalist in 1976, failed to make the Austrian team four years ago but has come back dramatically into contention.

The Swiss, with current World Cup leader Urs Raebler, and the Canadians, led by Steve Podborski, will provide the stiffest opposition.

The giant slalom and special slalom events look wide open due to the ineligibility of Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark and Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein, who have lost amateur status.

The Nordic events, true to their name, should bring a cluster of medals to the Scandinavian countries where they originated, but in the most spectacular event, ski jumping, 19-year-old Jens Weissflog could spearhead East Germany's bid to break tradition.

The men's cross-country, dominated in Lake Placid by triple gold medalist Nikolai Zimyatov of the Soviet Union, could provide a more varied winners' list but the Russians remain the skiers to beat.

In the women's section, which includes a 20-km race for the first time, Finland's Marja Liisa Hamalainen and Brit Pettersen of Norway are expected to be among the medalists.

Russians Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev have proved their superiority in Europe in the pairs but face two strong North American couples, Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini of Canada and Caitlin and Peter Carruthers of the United States.

Speed skating in 1980 was dominated by American Eric Heiden's sweep of all five men's medals. But his feat will not be repeated in Sarajevo.

Challengers from the Netherlands, Japan, Canada and Sweden should ensure a mixed group of heirs to Heiden's throne.

By contrast, the four women's titles, which went to different nations in Lake Placid, could all go to East Germany this time with Karin Enke, the reigning Olympic 500 metres champion, the likeliest medalist.

Ice hockey is still reverberating from the dramatic American victory in 1980 over the sport's traditional Olympic giants, the Soviet Union.

But while the U.S. team has been lost to professionalism and replaced by largely inexperienced youngsters, the Soviets have come back as strong as ever and look set to wreak revenge.

The two-man bob competition climaxes a winter of intrigue and mystery over the introduction of a new, slimmer Soviet machine which has sent rivals to the drawing-board in an attempt to copy its revolutionary design.

Switzerland, Austria, West Germany and Italy have hastily produced lookalikes but some may hesitate to use them because they have had little time to practise.

But the Soviets are alone in the four-man event with their new bob which, win or lose, will be the focus of attention. They and the East Germans should also dominate the huge events though a strong Italian team may produce a surprise.

In figure skating, Britain's World and European Ice Dance Champions, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, look certain to take the first gold medal with the rest battling for silver and bronze.

American Scott Hamilton, also a World Champion three times, will be challenged hard by Alexander Fadeyev of the Soviet Union, Brian Orser of Canada and West Germans Norbert Schramm and Rudi Cerne.

European Champion Katerina Witt of East Germany and U.S. World Champion Rosalynn Sumners are joint favourites in the women's event.

Lendl defeats Mayer for semifinal place

TORONTO (R) — Ivan Lendl, swinging his racket wildly and chastising himself for every lost point, devastated American Gene Mayer 6-2, 6-1 Thursday night to clinch a semifinal berth in the \$250,000 Challenge Tennis Tournament at Toronto.

Yannick Noah of France and American Jimmy Connors also advanced to the semifinal round of this eight-man, round-robin tournament. Noah fought off a strong challenge from Canadian Glenn Michibata and Connors beat Jose Higuera of Spain.

"He makes me work very hard because he plays the ball very fast," the Czechoslovak said of Mayer. "I played very well today."

It play well, I don't let him run around me."

Noah, the 1983 French Open Champion, was down 2-4 in the second set but then Michibata appeared to lose his composure, allowing the Frenchman to charge back for a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Connors defeated Higuera 6-2, 6-2.

Lendl, Noah and Connors all have perfect 2-0 records.

Connors faces Noah in the next round, with the loser meeting Lendl in the semifinals, while Michibata plays Higuera.

Mayer will face Wojtek Fibak of Poland, who edged out Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 earlier Thursday night.

Grand Prix Masters may be moved forward a month

PARIS (R) — The Men's International Professional Tennis Council is discussing moving the Grand Prix Masters Tournament forward a month to December, International Tennis Federation President Philippe Chatrier said Friday.

Chatrier said top players were unhappy that the tournament, which marks the culmination of the Grand Prix circuit, takes place more than a month after the completion of the circuit.

World number one John McEnroe and other high-ranked players have said they experience difficulty in getting motivated after a long break during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Referring to rumours that the Masters might be moved from New York next year because of financial problems facing Madison Square Gardens, Chatrier said: "There's no question at the moment of moving it out of New York."

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11	3.25 M ³ /Hr mortar pump	1	
12	Benz D302 37p bus	1	
13	Man 16,000L water tanktruck	1	Customs duty unpaid.
14	Magirus Deutz 6 M ³ con'c mixer truck	2	Temporary admission status.
15	Benz 2624 6 M ³ con'c mixer truck	2	Buyer should pay duty.
16	750L dumper	3	
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18	Liebmerr tower crane	1	Customs duty paid partly damaged.
19	B.P.R. tower crane	1	

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Chad rebel delegation arrives in Paris

PARIS (R) — Three aides of Chad rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei arrived unexpectedly in Paris Thursday night and asked to meet President Francois Mitterrand's advisers, informed sources said Friday.

The Presidential Palace refused to say whether meetings were planned but would not exclude them in principle.

The arrival of the three men — Yshamat Abba Said, Facho Balam and Allahou Taher — coincided with a fresh diplomatic initiative by External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, due in Addis Ababa Friday from the Chad capital of N'Djamena.

Mr. Goukouni's spokesman in Paris, Abdelrahman Moussa, said the delegation had come here to express displeasure over the exclusion of the Libyan-backed rebel government of National Unity from Cheysson's peace-seeking mission.

France has 3,000 troops in Chad backing the forces of President Hissene Habre. French officials say they are there to prevent a Libyan takeover and not to get

embroiled in the civil war, which has rumbled on and off for some 18 years.

The Ethiopian capital is the home of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which all sides say is the right forum for resolving the 18-year Chad conflict.

Mr. Cheysson, whose tour will end in Libya, was given a full briefing Thursday by Mr. Habre, whose army has reported renewed clashes in the north-east with Libyan-backed rebels.

The current OAU chairman, Ethiopian Leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, convened such talks in Addis Ababa last month, but they collapsed when Mr. Habre refused to attend.

Rebel Leader Goukouni Oueddei was given a high-protocol welcome by Mr. Mengistu, which Mr. Habre considered was intended to put the government and

its opponents on the same level.

The pro-Soviet Ethiopian leader is viewed from N'Djamena as biased in Mr. Goukouni's favour and against Mr. Habre, who seized power in 1982 with financial help from "moderate" and pro-Western African states.

The last and most critical stage of Mr. Cheysson's tour will be Tripoli, whose support has allowed the rebels to keep control of northern Chad. Libyan Leader Muammar Qadhafi feels that neighbouring Chad is as much within his legitimate sphere of influence as it is within France's, the former colonial power.

The influential Paris daily Le Monde reported last week that Mr. Qadhafi wanted a "man-to-man" meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand to discuss the whole Chad problem and it is possible he might press Mr. Cheysson to arrange such an encounter.

In Paris the French Defence Ministry Thursday denied a Libya News Agency (IANA) report that four French soldiers had been killed during fighting between rebels and government troops in Chad.

Soviet election meetings begin

MOSCOW (R) — Candidates in the elections to the Supreme Soviet due on March 4 began their meetings with the public Friday.

Though no alternative choice of candidates is offered to Soviet citizens, the official media are giving priority treatment to the election, with television news broadcasting interviews with worker candidates almost nightly.

President Yuri Andropov, aiming out of sight for over five months, is standing for Moscow's Proletarsky district and should appear at a public gathering, if only of a chosen few within the Kremlin, to make the traditional speech of a candidate.

He would normally also be expected to cast his vote at one of the polling stations.

A senior Communist Party official, reassuring Soviet citizens of their system's democracy four weeks before elections, told party workers Friday that reacting to letters from the public was a priority task.

Boris Yakovlev, head of the Communist Party Central Committee's correspondence department, said in an article in the official daily Pravda the most important letters received by the party were considered by politburo members themselves.

Malaysia's top judge proclaimed Sultan

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's top judge, Raja Tun Azlan Shah, Friday was proclaimed Sultan of Perak at the funeral of his cousin, Sultan Idris Shah, in the northwest town of Kuala Kangsar.

The 55-year-old lord president was sworn in as the 34th ruler of his home state to succeed the late Sultan Idris, 59, who was widely expected to become Malaysia's king in April. He died of a heart attack last Tuesday.

After a brief ceremony at the Royal Palace Raja Azlan joined the king, the prime minister and thousands of other mourners behind the yellow-draped bier which bore the late sultan to the royal mausoleum at the imposing Ubudiah Mosque.

The funeral was carried live by state radio and television which has stopped broadcasting all entertainment programmes since Wednesday as a mark of respect. The chief minister of Perak has declared 100 days of mourning throughout the state.

The late sultan was a frontrunner for the kingship which the country's nine hereditary state rulers rotate among themselves, choosing a new monarch every five years.

The sultan's death throws open the question of succession which was highlighted during a bitter five-month row last year between the sultans and the elected government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad over legislation to curb the power of the monarchy.

Thatcher meets Kadar for talks

BUDAPEST (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met Hungarian Communist Party Chief Janos Kadar Friday for talks that both leaders hope will lead to a relaxation of East-West tensions.

Mrs. Thatcher said in a radio interview before the meeting that there would be no results immediately.

The prime minister was greeted by a smiling Kadar at the Hungarian parliament building in Budapest.

Mrs. Thatcher said she hoped their meeting would be the first step of a long journey. The talks were expected to last two hours.

Earlier Mrs. Thatcher held talks lasting 45 minutes with Hungarian Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar and also met President Pal Losonczi.

She began her first official visit to an Eastern Bloc country with a ceremony at Heroes Square, a national monument built 100 years ago to commemorate the arrival of Hungarians to this region of Europe 1,000 years previously.

Dressed in black, she laid a wreath on the mist-shrouded monument that was the site of bloody street battles in 1956 when Soviet tanks put down the Hungarian uprising.

Hundreds of onlookers stopped on their way to work to watch the ceremony and to catch a glimpse of Mrs. Thatcher, once dubbed the "Iron Lady" by the Soviet press because of her uncompromising stand on East-West issues.

The British leader is widely admired in Hungary as a forceful personality on the world political stage.

She is expected to develop a theme of improved relations between the power blocs at a banquet scheduled for Friday night at which her host, Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar, will also speak.

Britain, Argentina swap signals on Falklands

CARACAS (R) — Britain and Argentina have been exchanging signals on their dispute over the Falklands (Malvinas) Islands, and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo says he sees hope for progress despite London's rejection of a proposal from Buenos Aires.

The British government Thursday turned down a call by Argentina's President Raul Alfonsín for a United Nations peacekeeping force on the Falklands while negotiations go on between the two countries over the South Atlantic islands.

But the British Foreign Office said London had sent specific ideas to the new civilian government in Argentina on improving relations, broke during the 1982 war over the islands which Britain rules as a colony.

Commenting on the British rejection of Argentina's proposal,

Mr. Caputo told Reuters: "We are disappointed, but we do not feel all possibilities have been exhausted. We have plenty of imagination."

Mr. Caputo and Mr. Alfonsín were in Caracas for the inauguration of Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

Mr. Alfonsín met U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz here and briefed him on the Argentine plan, which also calls for Britain to lift its 150-mile (225 kilometre) exclusion zone round the islands and to guarantee it would not continue to fortify them.

Before the meetings, Mr. Shultz restated at a news conference that the United States supported a peaceful solution of the dispute. A senior U.S. official said that during the talks with Mr. Alfonsín, Mr. Shultz did not comment on

the Argentine formula.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher repeated in parliament Thursday that she refused to discuss sovereignty over the islands but said she believed better relations with Argentina would be in both countries' interests.

The Foreign Office, rejecting Mr. Alfonsín's proposal, said the Argentine plan's main points "are known to be unacceptable to the British government."

But a spokesman said later: "Last week, we put some specific ideas to the Argentine government in a confidential approach ..."

We look forward to receiving the Argentine reply."

Official sources in London said Britain was stressing the seriousness of its intentions by keeping details of the message to Argentina secret.

Soviet-Norwegian ties at new low

OSLO (R) — Relations between Norway and the Soviet Union plunged to a new low Thursday with an announcement that the Norwegians had cancelled a parliamentary visit to Moscow because of a spying scandal.

An official statement said the Norwegian Parliament had sent a letter to the Soviet embassy in Oslo, informing it of the cancellation following the expulsion of five Soviet diplomats.

The expulsions came after the arrest of Norwegian Foreign Ministry official Arne Treholt who had admitted spying for Moscow.

This is the second time the parliamentary visit, at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet, has been cancelled. The first cancellation followed the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan three years ago.

Norwegian Prime Minister Kaare Willoch said Thursday the

spy affair had seriously injured relations between Norway and the Soviet Union but he said they should remain businesslike.

Norwegian government sources said visits by leading Soviet politicians and talks about matters of interest to both countries should take place as planned.

Asked if relations between Norway, a NATO member, and the Soviet Union were frozen, Mr. Willoch told Reuters:

"Our reaction to the espionage affair is clear, firm and adequate to the serious nature of the situation. (But) businesslike relations between the two neighbour countries should be maintained."

Government sources said this was a clear signal to the Norwegian public and the Soviet Union that Norway would not make any move to freeze relations altogether.

Further evidence that Norway was trying to steer a cautious course was the government's advice to its Moscow Ambassador Dagfinn Stenseth last week to delay a trip home for his father's 80th birthday in case the Soviet Union concluded that the trip was a political or diplomatic reaction, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Sverre Stray said Wednesday that no decision had been taken on whether visits here in April by Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Nikolai Maltsev and Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Baibakov in June would be cancelled.

A meeting of the mixed Norwegian-Soviet Economic Commission is also scheduled prior to the visit of Mr. Baibakov, he is chairman of Gosplan, the powerful Soviet planning commission.

U.S. group warns against re-arming Japan

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. defence study group said Thursday that a Japan heavily re-armed under pressure from the United States would frighten its Asian neighbours and could pose a threat to U.S. interests.

The Centre for Defence Information, a frequent critic of U.S. military policies, gave the warning in the latest issue of its publication, Defence Monitor.

"By pushing Japan to expand its military, the United States threatens to create a military force that may not be responsive to U.S. interests," it said.

Contrary to the idea that Japan was getting "a free ride", it actually ranked eighth worldwide in military spending, ahead of most North Atlantic Treaty Org-

anisation (NATO) nations, the group said.

Additional air and naval strength which Washington is urging so Japan can defend its own sea and air lanes up to 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) away, may enable Tokyo to project military force throughout the Pacific region, the centre said.

"Some Asians fear that the 1,000 mile plan is only the first step. Once Japan has the capacity to patrol that far, what's to stop it from patrolling 1,500 or 3,000 miles" it said.

The study, entitled the Defence of Japan: Should the Rising Sun Rise Again?, said officials in China, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Singapore had all expressed fears of a rearmed Japan.

It said Japan was already ranked fifth worldwide in the number of frigates and destroyers it had, eighth in submarines and 15th in air power.

While holding arms spending below one per cent of its gross national product, Japan had increased its military budgets by about eight per cent a year over the last decade, tapering off to a planned 6.8 per cent this year, it said.

Most U.S. allies in Western Europe had failed to meet the NATO goal of boosting arms spending by three per cent a year.

If Japan responded fully to U.S. pressure, the study said, it would have a jet fighter force comparable to Britain's, and the best anti-submarine capability in the region.

China enters year of rat with glitter, good humour

PEKING (R) — China entered the year of the rat Thursday unrepentant glitter and good humour, but tempered by earnest calls for national reunification and stern warnings to its southern neighbour Vietnam.

At the stroke of midnight, the incessant chatter of rockets and firecrackers in the streets suddenly turned into a storm of sound and the freezing night air was lit with green, red and yellow flashes.

This year is particularly significant as the first of a new 60-year lunar calendar cycle, comparable to the start of a new century in the West.

As China enters the new era under paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the traditional character of the rat is perhaps apt — small but smart, quick-witted and with a highly-developed instinct for survival.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese sat glued to television sets Wednesday night watching a six-hour new year spectacular until long past their usual bedtime.

The show set the tone of the festivities — somewhere between lighthearted rejoicing and political propaganda.

With a Taiwanese host and singing stars from Hong Kong, it made frequent references to national reunification.

As New Year approached, host Huang Yitang stepped onto stage with other recent arrivals to the mainland from Nationalist Taiwan.

The mood became nostalgic, soulful. Taiwan airforce defector Li Dawei sang a traditional song to an accordion accompaniment.

The Hong Kong singers joined in. "No matter where, no matter when, the blood that runs through my veins comes straight from my Chinese heart," one star crooned.

A nationwide phone-in for individual requests and messages underlined the theme of unity.

The good humour was genuine. The sparkling audience of celebrities included several staid-looking officials, but by the end, even they were jumping up and down, shouting and laughing.

As the year of the rat finally opened, a montage of screen images reminded people that although colour had returned to China after the grim extremism of Mao Tse-tung's last years, hard work and vigilance were still the order of the day.

The national papers carried pictures of Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang giving a New Year's Eve pep talk to border guards in Guangxi, on the tense frontier with Vietnam.

"Our borders are not yet safe, we must be ready to repel any aggressive intrusions by Vietnam," he said.

As Mr. Hu spoke, the Foreign Ministry in Peking was rejecting, as an insincere trick, the latest proposals from a Hanoi-dominated Indochinese foreign ministers' meeting for talks on the troubled region.

China has already brushed aside Vietnam's offer of a ceasefire over the Lunar New Year, which both observe. The pattern of mutual recriminations almost exactly mirrors last year's exchanges.

At home, the People's Daily drew attention to economic achievements under the present leadership. "We have started on the road to construct an essentially Chinese Socialism, we will continue the firm and unshakeable policy of prosperity for all."

In a short five years, conditions have changed amazingly for the better," the paper said, in a clear reference to the policies of Mr. Deng and his reformist proteges since 1978.

Mr. Deng himself spent new year in Guangdong in the south, on an inspection tour. Head of State Li Xiannian and Premier Zhao Ziyang were in Peking where this morning they attended a reception at the Great Hall of the People.

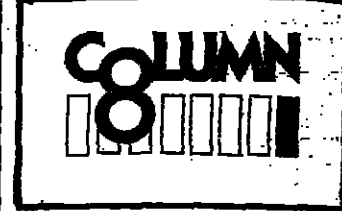
Mr. Li said the nation would continue to readjust, restructure, consolidate and improve the economy and urged all party members to fulfil the tasks set in last year's party rectification campaign, the New China News Agency reported.

Abroad, China would continue to oppose hegemonism, aggression and the arms race, he said. These are catch-phrases for what China sees as expansionism by the Soviet Union and Vietnam and for the arms race between the two superpowers.

In Peking's parks, acrobats and martial arts exponents, still-walkers and lion dancers were giving displays.

But the capital was uncannily quiet, the peace broken only by a few firecrackers. Most people, making the best of a rare four-day break, rested at home after a late night's feasting.

The city's rats were also keeping their heads down. City officials recently began a renewed drive to exterminate them.



Best lavatory keepers awarded

LONDON (R) — The keepers of Britain's best and brightest public lavatory were presented with a mahogany lavatory seat bearing a brass plaque. Les Harding and Red Bedwell won the award from a bathroom firm after a newspaper competition in which readers gave 1,200 out of 2,700 votes for their spot in London's WC2 district. The two attendants spent their own money on painting and tiling the lavatory, owned by the local authority, and installing piped music and scented soap. "We are just flushed with pride," Mr. Bedwell said.

Missing woman reclaims fortune

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, England (R) — A missing spinster who reappeared after over three years, just before relatives inherited her £150,000 (\$210,000) estate, tried to explain the absence to her family. "I got fed up with living in a cul-de-sac and decided to go off to London," said 61-year-old Joan Upton. She disappeared from her home in Crawley, a quiet dormitory town for London commuters, in 1980 and spent three years working as a dishwasher and living in London hostels for vagrants. She was legally declared dead last August and her estate was due to be settled on five relatives in two weeks' time. "I want to see my family and explain everything," she told reporters after her reappearance in this east coast town. "They must feel cheated now that I have the money. I hope they won't be hurt." The main beneficiary, Peggie Gooding, embraced and kissed her cousin before the cameras while husband Maurice Gooding was saying of the money: "We never gave it a thought."

Rod Stewart sued for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — British rock star Rod Stewart was sued for divorce Thursday by former model Alana Stewart who cited irreconcilable differences. Alana Stewart, married to Rod for nearly five years, left her husband in London and returned to Los Angeles with their two children — Kimberly, four and Sean, three — last Dec. 29 after a Christmas reconciliation attempt apparently failed. In her petition, filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court, Alana Stewart asked for support from her husband for herself and their children and sought physical custody of the children.

Prostitutes demand payment in gold

MANILA (R) — Prostitutes working among itinerant gold-diggers in the southern Philippines are insisting on payment in gold dust or nuggets and refusing paper money, Manila newspapers reported Friday. "Because the peso is threatened with another devaluation, the women have issued strict terms of payment: A gram of gold dust or nuggets for an hour of sexual interlude. No paper money," the Metro Manila Times said. At current gold prices, this works out at about 160 pesos (\$11). The Manila Evening Post said: "Enterprising ladies have even brought with them their own miniature weighing scales."

100-year-old man marries teenager

NAIROBI (R) — Mohammad Aloo, aged 100, married a 14-year-old girl in a ceremony in north-eastern Kenya this week, the Kenya News Agency reported Friday. The bridegroom said it was a custom in his tribe, the Boran, for men to take young brides. The best man was aged 86.

Moscow's population reaches 8.5 million

MOSCOW (R) — The population of Moscow has reached 8.5 million, TASS News Agency said Friday, a week after moves were announced to stop the influx of people to the city. Moscow Party Chief Viktor Grishin said last Friday it was time to stop the growth caused by workers coming from the provinces. Moscow is surrounded by a ring road intended to limit its expansion.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ983 ♠84 ♠74 ♠K652

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A. — Partner's cue-bid in clubs shows a maximum two no trump opening bid with good trump support. Therefore, you need not be ashamed of your hand. Since you have no first-round control to cue-bid, bid five clubs to show the king in that suit.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠J ♠K8753 ♠Q103 ♠9872

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Double Pass ?

What action do you take?

A. — If you elected to take any action at all, there is something about takeout doubles you don't understand. Had partner wanted to hear your best suit, he would have doubled one spade! Now he is making a penalty double of two spades and, since your hand includes a trump honor he thinks the enemy holds, you have an excellent hand for him. Pass.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠987532 ♠J6 ♠AK107 ♠A

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A. — You cannot be sure how useful your hand will be to partner, but you do know that you have at least an eight-card spade fit, and your hand should produce more tricks in a spade contract than at no trump. Jump to four spades. That is a shut-out bid — had you wanted to

investigate another contract, you had a wide choice of forcing bids available.

Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠7 ♠AK9 ♠Q10762 ♠AK53

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A. — Although you probably have the best hand at the table, there is no action you can take that is not fraught with danger. An overall of one no trump asks for trouble if partner is weak; two diamonds is 1400 territory; and a double could lead to an unmanageable auction. Pass, and see what develops.

Q.5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK10954 ♠93 ♠6 ♠AKJ3

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A. — You are too strong to just rebid two spades. Indeed, spades may not even be the right spot, which is why we dislike a jump to three spades. A bid of two clubs is most flexible. If partner passes, you are probably in the right spot. And if he does anything else, you can rebid spades to show a 6-4 distribution and a good hand.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠732 ♠84 ♠AKQ74 ♠KQ6

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A. — This is simply a matter of addition. Partner has shown a balanced 19-20 points and you have 14 and a good five-card suit. To bid less than six no trump would be criminal negligence.

Jackson cites death threats after donations revealed

BOSTON (R) — Democratic Presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson said he received death threats after published reports that the Arab League donated \$200,000 to an organisation he founded, the Boston Globe reported.

Rev. Jackson told Globe editors on Wednesday that the published reports of the donations last month were "an attempt to vulgarise the Arabs."

He said he received a "barrage" of death threats afterwards. The reports said the Arab League, which embraces 23 Arab governments and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), gave \$100,000 to Rev. Jackson's Operation Push (People United to Save Humanity) and another \$100,000 to an affiliate between 1978 and 1982.

"People threatened to kill me, threatened to blow up my office about this Arab money thing — as if the money came to me personally, as opposed to it coming to help our children," Rev. Jackson said.

Operation Push aids black youth.

Rev. Jackson was quoted by the Boston Globe as saying there was nothing illegal about taking money from the Arab League.

New York Mayor Edward Koch, a Democrat who is one of the country's most prominent Jewish politicians, said Rev. Jackson was "anti-Israel", adding: "anybody who takes money from the Arab League is supportive of the Arab League's position."

The league has "only one position — it's the destruction of Israel," Mr. Koch said.

Rev. Jackson has consistently rejected charges that he is anti-Israel.

O'Neill backs Mondale

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, Thomas O'Neill, endorsed former Vice-President Walter Mondale for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.